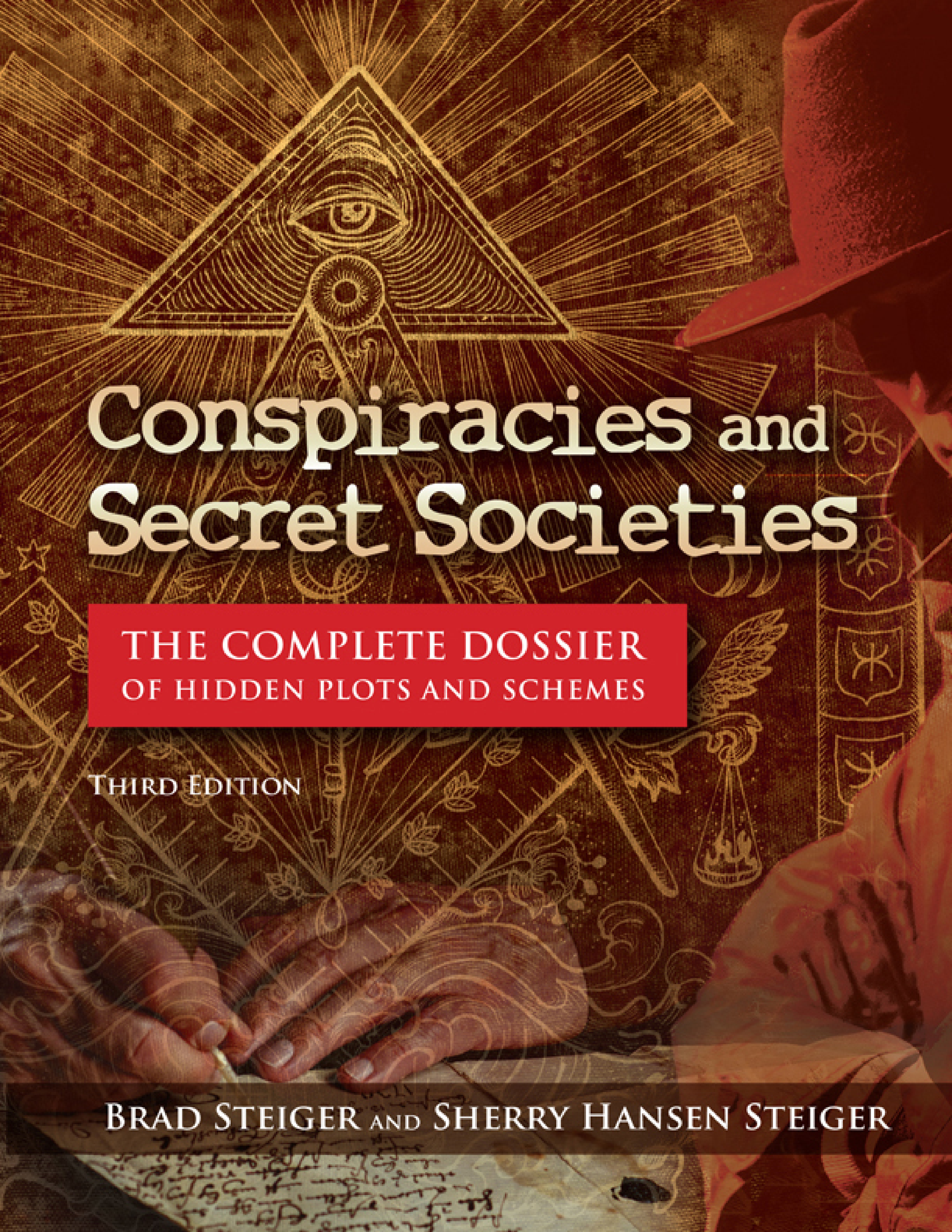
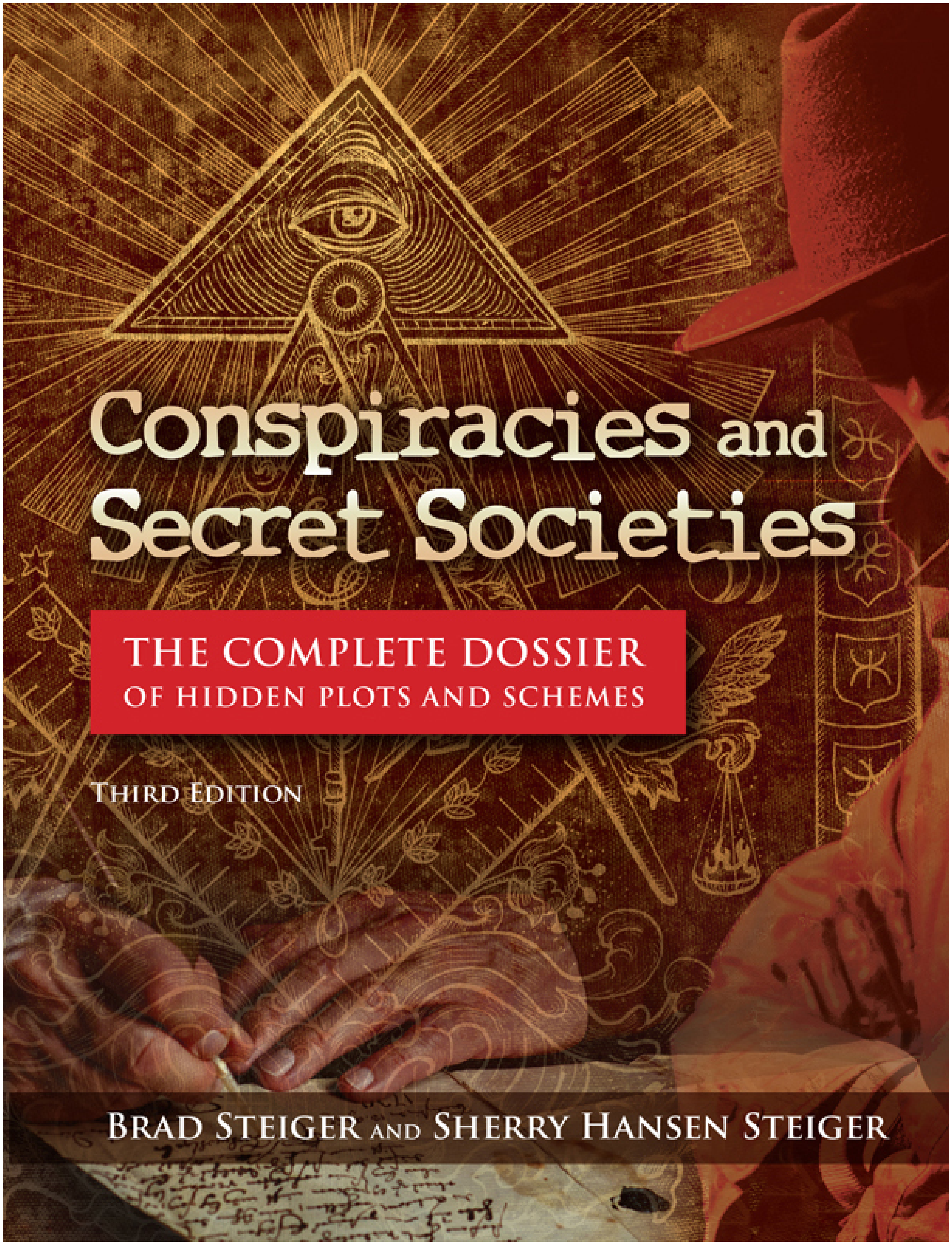


Conspiracies and Secret Societies

THE COMPLETE DOSSIER OF HIDDEN PLOTS AND SCHEMES

THIRD EDITION

BRAD STEIGER AND SHERRY HANSEN STEIGER



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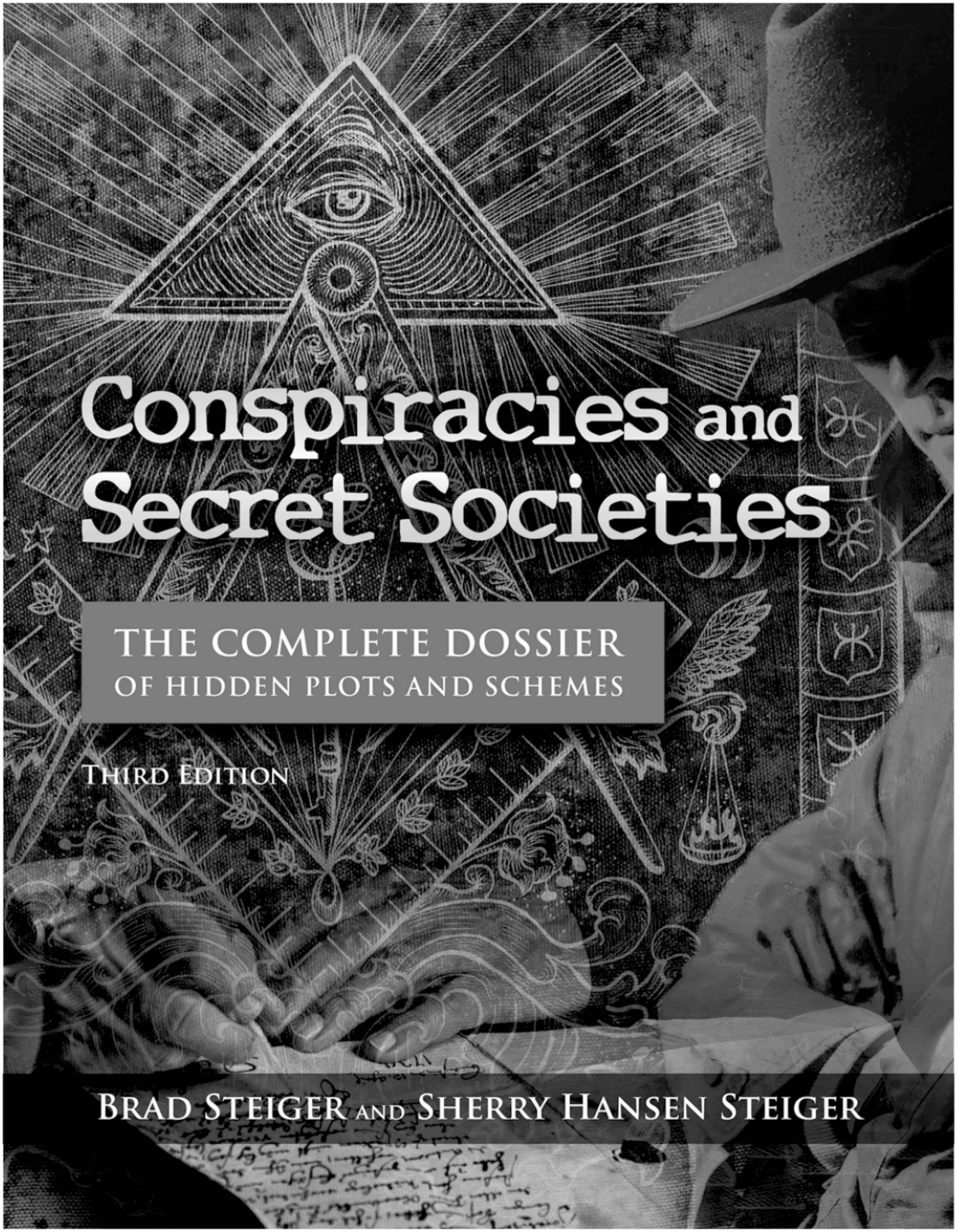

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Introduction

In spite of his expressed reservations, on December 31, 2011, President Barack Obama brought in the new year by signing the National Defense Authorization Act, which gives the government enhanced powers to detain, interrogate, and prosecute its citizens. Under this new act, government agencies may order the indefinite imprisonment of American citizens without charges or trial, the possible military detention of ordinary citizens who would normally be outside of military control, and the transfer to the Department of Defense those law enforcement, penal, and custodial powers currently held by the Department of Justice. In the words of U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, an enthusiastic supporter of the bill, "The homeland is part of the battlefield" in the global war on terror.

Since the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the American public has tended to believe that their government increasingly lies to them and conspires against them. Rick Ross, whose Ross Institute of New Jersey investigates conspiracies, has observed that more and more Americans see manipulative forces working behind the scenes of their own government.

Conspiracy theorists are quick to respond that they have many good reasons to suspect the government of dirty dealings behind the scenes. While only a few whistleblowers — officially dismissed as "kooks and dissidents" — tried to warn the general public about secret government agencies, it was later learned that in the late 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s the FBI's COINTELPRO really *did* have orders to defame, disgrace, and dispose of war protesters, radical political groups, and freedom marchers by any means necessary. The CIA's insidious, topsecret MK-ULTRA really *did* conduct ghastly brainwashing and mind-altering drug experiments that may have produced the perfect assassins, as well as the Unabomber.

In 1950, when nuclear weapons were still in their infancy, the Department of Defense detonated nuclear devices in desert areas, then monitored unsuspecting civilians in cities downwind from the blasts for medical problems and mortality rates.

In 1966, more than a million civilians were exposed to germ warfare when U.S. Army scientists dropped light bulbs filled with bacteria onto ventilation grates throughout the New York City subway system.

In 1977, Senate hearings revealed that between 1949 and 1969, 239 highly populated areas, including San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Key West, Panama City, Minneapolis, and St. Louis had been contaminated with biological agents.

In 1995, evidence surfaced that the biological agents used during the Gulf War had been manufactured in Houston and Boca Raton and tested on prisoners in the Texas Department of Corrections.

The years following the destruction of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, have seen what Mike Ward, writing in *PopMatters* (January 3, 2003) termed "probably the most staggering proliferation of 'conspiracy theories' in American history. Angry speculation —

focused mainly on government dirty dealings, ulterior motives, and potential complicity in the attacks — has risen to a clamor that easily rivals what followed the Kennedy assassination."

Conspiracy theories are often replete with internal paradoxes, and some are easily dismissed by rational folks as completely weird and crazy. Often, the truth lies in the middle, and the task of the serious researcher is to make an intelligent discernment. To dismiss some conspiracy theories as too wild and off-the-wall to deserve attention may only result in the last laugh being enjoyed by those who seek to control and manipulate others.

Conspiracy theorists warn that Big Brother's eyes and ears are becoming increasingly active throughout the United States. Cameras are showing up on street corners in cities across the United States, as well as other countries like England. Ostensibly, they are there to help police scan license plates on stolen cars and capture thieves and escaping killers, and many of the cameras have the capabilities of facial identification and can cross reference any citizen suspected of antisocial behavior of even the most minor of offenses with an extensive database.

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chips smaller than a grain of sand are being used to monitor the attendance and movements of children while they are at school, the sale patterns of retail merchandise, and the habits of factory workers. Plans are allegedly underway to place a chip in all newborns in the United States and Europe.

Government agencies can easily monitor both landline and cell phones, making a private call an anachronism. The FBI has been forced to admit that it regularly monitors internet radio talk programs throughout the United States, as well as email and website browsing patterns.

Even the average American citizen who is more interested in sports and paying the bills, rather than politics and conspiracies, may become queasy at the idea that the power of the Patriot Act has become enhanced by the National Defense Authorization Act, and that three of the Republican candidates in the 2012 presidential race openly supported waterboarding as a tool of interrogation. Just how far might the government extend its new powers to the process of making the unfortunate citizen suspected of treason or terrorism confess to those accusations?

America has been a cradle for conspiracies and secret societies from its earliest beginnings. Christopher Columbus, for example, held apocalyptic beliefs and claimed to have received a vision that the world would end in 1650 and that it was his divine mission to find a new land that would be the location of the new heaven and new earth promised by St. John in the Book of Revelation. In the 1600s, the master Freemason Sir Francis Bacon believed that America was the New Atlantis and that it would bring forth a New World Order that would restore all humankind to the earthly paradise that existed in that Golden Age of old.

Petty conspiracies that circulate about political or business rivals are as old as the human psyche, Daniel Pipes tells us in *Front Page* magazine (January 13, 2004). But fears about grand conspiracies, such as some secret society seeking to take over the world, go back only 900 years and "have been operational for just two centuries, since the French Revolution." While royal heads were being lopped off by Madame Guillotine, some citizens were blaming the revolution on the political manipulations of the Bavarian Illuminati and its hold on the Jacobins.

Fear of such conspiracies and shadowy societies have made American history replete with warnings of secret plots by the Freemasons, the Zionists, the Roman Catholics, the Communists, the World Bankers, the Bilderbergers, the Illuminati, the Secret Government, New Agers, and extraterrestrial invaders. Charges of conspiracy have grown to self-perpetuating histories of sinister cabals responsible for the assassinations of Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and Princess Diana of Wales. Polls indicate that increasing numbers of Americans believe that they have not been told the truth about Pearl Harbor, the Gulf of Tonkin, the Oklahoma City Bombing, the fires that consumed Waco, or the Twin Towers on 9/11.

Sometimes, it seems these paranoid people are really on to something. When such conspiracies as those cited above prove to be true or partially true, the assertion that there is a kernel of truth in even the most farfetched conspiracy theory appears also to be true. Michael Barkun, a political scientist at Syracuse University and the author of *A Culture of Conspiracy: Apolcalyptic Visions in Contemporary America* (2003), has identified what he believes to be three principles to be found in every conspiracy theory: Nothing happens by accident; nothing is as it seems; everything is connected. The essence of conspiracy beliefs, Barkun says, "lies in attempts to delineate and explain evil." Barkun also states that contemporary conspiracy theories have taken on a major new development, the joining of the occult, the heretical, and the unfashionable, such as spiritualism, alchemy, and theosophy.

With the advent of the internet, anyone can become a conspiracy theorist and broadcast his or her unchecked, unquestioned, and unchallenged claims of government corruption, racist propaganda, or alien abduction all over the world. On Google alone, there are thousands of active websites devoted to conspiracy theories and dedicated to secret societies. Sharing stories about conspiracies and secret societies is very much like spreading sinister gossip, and one needs to develop a sense of what is true and what is merely a reflection of someone else's personal prejudices and beliefs.

For many years now, we have studied and evaluated the enormous influence of conspiracy theories on society and how people's beliefs can be manipulated for good or for evil by the promulgation of certain idea, theories, and beliefs. While this book may appear to document the more shadowy visages of human history, the images that appear in the dark mirrors that reflect portraits of chaos, confusion, and deceit down through the ages, we have tried our best to approach this work without any personal agendas. We do not subscribe to any particular conspiracy theory, and we do not belong to any secret society. It is up to each reader to decide whether this book presents a work of entertainment or enlightenment, a work of wonderment or of warning.

— Brad and Sherry Steiger

Note for the New Edition

Since the last edition of *Conspiracies and Secret Societies* was published in 2013, the trends that the Steigers noted about the impact of the internet on conspiracy theories have only accelerated. What is more, the explosion of social media from Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram — not to mention whatever new applications have become the next hottest thing by the time you read this — has supercharged the creation and distribution of information. In the third decade of the twenty-first century, it is no longer necessary for conspiracy theorists to painstakingly compile mailing lists or secure time on a public access television station to get their messages out.

The faster things change in a hyperkinetic, wired world, the more destabilizing it can feel. In reaction, people who wonder why so many climactic events seem to be occurring one after the other may be more likely to feel that there is something going on behind the scenes. With the increasing infiltration of conspiracy theories into mainstream political discourse, it is more important than ever that even those who question the existence of these conspiracies should learn about them and gain a greater understanding of how they affect our society.

In this new edition, a team of researchers at Visible Ink Press built upon the Steigers' monumental work. We updated existing material with new developments and ideas, and also added many new entries on topics as varied as Antifa, the Deep State, COVID vaccines, the January 6 insurrection, President Donald Trump, Bill Gates, Jeffrey Epstein, the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, the Large Hadron Collider, and QAnon, among many others.

Conspiracy
Secret Society
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Numbers

9/11

For the vast majority of Americans, it seems unthinkable that our own government could have had a hand in orchestrating the awful events of 9/11, but conspiracy theorists argue that the evidence for such terrible complicity continues to mount.

Everybody knows what happened on September 11, 2001. Here is a timeline of how the awful morning began:

7:58 A.M.: United Airlines Flight 175 departs Boston for Los Angeles carrying two pilots, seven flight attendants, and fifty-six passengers. Shortly after takeoff, the Boeing 767 is hijacked and diverted to New York.

7:59 A.M.: American Airlines Flight 11 departs Boston for Los Angeles carrying two pilots, nine flight attendants, and eighty-one passengers. This Boeing 767 is also hijacked and turned toward New York.

8:01 A.M.: United Airlines Flight 93, a Boeing 757, carrying two pilots, five flight attendants, and thirty-eight passengers, leaves Newark, New Jersey, for San Francisco.

8:10 A.M.: American Airlines Flight 77 (also a Boeing 757), carrying two pilots, four flight attendants, and fifty-eight passengers, leaves Dulles International Airport for Los Angeles. Flight 77 is hijacked after takeoff.

8:46 A.M.: Flight 11 crashes into the North Tower at the World Trade Center (WTC) in New York.

9:03 A.M.: Flight 175 slams into the South Tower.

9:45 A.M.: Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon.

10:05 A.M.: The South Tower collapses.

10:10 A.M.: A large section of the Pentagon collapses.

10:10 A.M.: Flight 93 crashes in a field in Pennsylvania after passengers rush hijackers.

10:28 A.M.: The North Tower collapses.

Many conspiracy theorists who do not accept the events of that terrible day as millions of people around the world saw them transpire. A number of them believe that the attacks had in fact been orchestrated by the American government, possibly in league with elements of the nascent New World Order, and likely in order to begin a war against Iraq that would allow them to seize that country's oil fields.

Officially the result of terrorist attacks, the destruction of the World Trade Center (shown here) and the Pentagon appeared suspicious to some conspiracy theorists, who consider it a false flag operation.

Here are a number of the most common conspiracy claims and the arguments rebutting them:

Claim: The jets that struck the WTC and the Pentagon weren't commercial planes but refueling tankers or guided missiles.

Rebuttal: If the planes that struck the WTC and the Pentagon were tankers or missiles, then what happened to United flights 175 and 93 and American flights 11 and 77? Where are the airplanes, the passengers, and the crew members of those flights? The fact that Islamic terrorists took over the four airplanes is supported by mountains of evidence, including cockpit recordings and forensics.

Claim: Photographs and video taken of Flight 175 just before it struck the South Tower clearly show an object under the fuselage at the base of the right wing. This "pod" is most likely a missile or a bomb.

Rebuttal: Photo experts who have compared the image with other photos of a Boeing 767 have concluded that the "pod" that conspiracy theorists see is nothing more than sunlight glinting off the fairing that contains the landing gear and exaggerating its size.

Claim: There are twenty-eight air force bases within close range of the alleged four hijacked flights, and Andrews AFB had two squadrons of fighter planes protecting the skies over Washington. Yet there was no military interference with the suicide flights because the Air Force was ordered to stand down. Someone at the highest level of authority had prior knowledge of the attacks and allowed them to take place.

Rebuttal: The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) was not prepared to perceive domestic passenger flights as threats. Beginning at 8:37 A.M., NORAD's Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS) was called three times to report that Flight 11 was hijacked, but at 9:21 A.M. they were erroneously given Washington, rather than New York, as its destination. Flight 11 struck the North Tower at 8:46 A.M. NEADS was notified of Flight 175's hijacking at 9:03 A.M., the precise time that the airplane crashed into the South Tower. Two F-16s had been scrambled from Otis Air Force Base in Falmouth, Massachusetts, and three from Langley Air National Guard, but none got near the hijacked planes. Regarding Flights 93 and 77, once the terrorists shut off the planes' transponders, it became impossible to sort the hijacked planes from the 4,500 other blips on radar screens at some of the nation's busiest air lanes.

Claim: The first hijacked plane crashed into floors 94 through 98 of the WTC's 110-story North Tower. The second jet impacted floors 78 to 84 of the 110-story South Tower. There is no way that these two planes, though loaded with fuel, could have destroyed the structural integrity of the WTC towers. Demolition charges had to have been placed throughout the towers before the crashes occurred.

Rebuttal: According to initial findings of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), plane wreckage plowed through utility shafts at the North Tower's core, creating a conduit for burning jet fuel to course throughout the building. On October 19, 2004, federal investigators released a five-hundred-page report stating that the twin towers failed "because the structural columns at the buildings' core, damaged by the impact of the airliners, buckled and shortened as the fires burned, gradually shifting more load to the towers' exterior pinstripe columns [which] ultimately suffered such extraordinary stress and heat that they gave way" (*New York Times*, October 20, 2004).

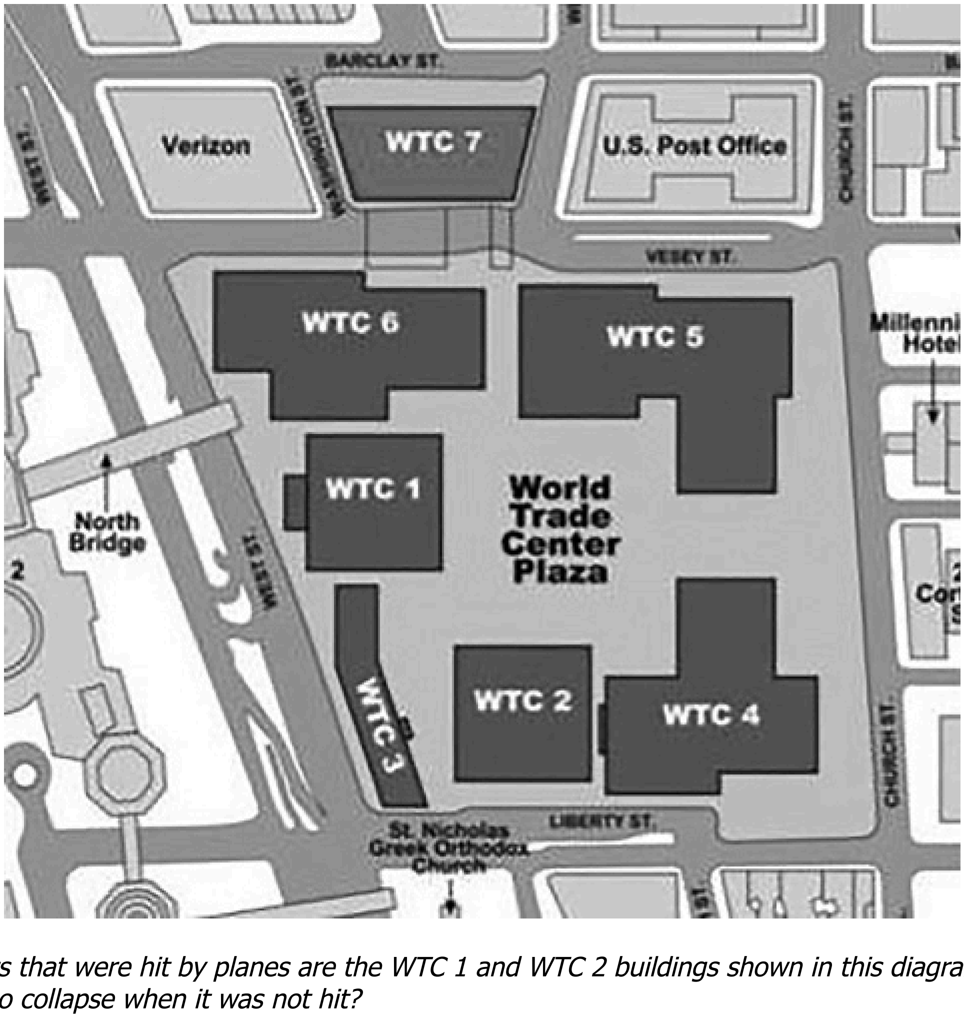
Claim: Jet fuel cannot burn hot enough to melt steel.

Rebuttal: Although it is true that jet fuel burns at only 1,517 F° and steel melts at 2,777 F°, experts agree that the towers' steel frames didn't need to melt to collapse; their loss of structural strength would have been enough. Thomas Eagar, engineering professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, explained that steel loses 50 percent of its strength at 1,200 F°, and with 90,000 liters of jet fuel continuing to ignite other combustible materials, the temperature would continue to rise.

Claim: The collapse of the twin towers resembled controlled implosions, such as those used to demolish old buildings.

Rebuttal: The weight of all the floors above the collapsed zones of the towers would begin to smash down with massive force on the floors below, creating a kind of chain reaction. Experienced engineers term the process "pancaking," and they say that it need not require an explosion to begin.

Claim: Seismographs at Columbia University Earth Observatory in Palisades, New York, indicate that the strongest jolts were registered before the collapsing towers struck the earth, thereby proving that massive explosions brought them down.


BARCLAY ST.
WEST ST.
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WASHINGTON ST.
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U.S. Post Office
CHURCH ST.
VESEY ST.
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North
Bridge
WTC 1
World
Trade
Center
Plaza
2
WEST ST.
WTC 3
WTC 2
WTC 4
CHURCH ST.
LIBERTY ST.
St. Nicholas
Greek Orthodox
Church

The Twin Towers that were hit by planes are the WTC 1 and WTC 2 buildings shown in this diagram. But why did WTC 7 (top) also collapse when it was not hit?

Rebuttal: Seismologists at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory state that their work was misrepresented. Their graphs show only seismic readings produced by the two planes crashing into the towers and by the collapse of the buildings.

Claim: The forty-seven-story WTC 7 building fell seven hours after the collapse of the twin towers, the result of controlled demolition. The buildings fell straight down through themselves, maintaining radial symmetry. Witnesses to the collapse of the towers claim to have heard demolition blasts and seen clouds of dust and smoke shooting out of the towers. The towers came down suddenly and completely with the rubble falling at the same speed inside and outside the former buildings' profile. This is an impossibility unless the towers fell by controlled demolition.

Rebuttal: According to the NIST, there was one basic reason for the WTC 7 collapse: Because of an unusual design, the columns were assigned exceptionally heavy loads, approximately 2,000 square feet of floor area for each floor. Shyam Sunder of the NIST states that preliminary analysis showed that "if you take out just one column on one of the lower floors, it could cause a vertical progression of collapse so that the entire section comes down."

Claim: The two crash holes visible in the Pentagon are much too small to have been made by a Boeing 757.

Rebuttal: Mete Sozen, a professor of structural engineering at Purdue University, reminds people that a crashing jet airplane doesn't leave a cartoon cutout outline of itself on the ground or on a building. In Sozen's opinion, what was left of the Boeing 757 flowed into the reinforced concrete building in a state "closer to a liquid than a solid mass."

Claim: There was no plane wreckage found at the Pentagon, thereby proving that a missile or a bomb was responsible for the damage.

Rebuttal: Blast expert Allyn E. Kilsheimer was the first structural engineer to arrive on the scene. He states that he saw the marks of the plane wing on the building, picked up parts of the plane with airline markings on them, held the tail section, and found the black box. There is no mistake, he says, it was an airplane that struck the Pentagon.

Claim: Flight 93 was brought down by a heat-seeking missile from an F-16 fighter.

Rebuttal: There were no F-16s in the area, but a Dassault Falcon 20 business jet owned by the VF Corporation of Greensboro, North Carolina, was on a descent into the Johnstown-Cambria airport when the FAA contacted them and asked them to investigate. The Falcon 20 pinpointed the location of a hole in the ground and smoke rising out of it.

Claim: One of Flight 93's engines was found a considerable distance from the crash site with damage consistent to that which a heat-seeking missile would cause.

Rebuttal: Investigators on the scene reported a fan from one of the engines in a catchment basin about 300 yards south of the crash site. Experts say there is nothing extraordinary about an engine tumbling that distance from the crash site, especially when considering that the plane probably hit traveling at 500 mph, moving 700 to 800 feet per second.

Claim: After take-off, the four doomed aircraft were ordered by secret government agents to a deserted airbase where the passengers from Flights 11, 77, and 175 were placed aboard Flight 93, which was electronically controlled and programmed to crash in Pennsylvania, eliminating all witnesses. The three aircraft that struck the WTC and the Pentagon were empty, controlled by implanted electronic systems from afar. The frantic calls from cellphones, allegedly from passengers, were all prerecorded by trained actors. The shadow government then used the phony attack by "foreign terrorists" as an excuse to declare war on Iraq.

Rebuttal: This "scenario reconstruction" was suggested by retired University of Western Ontario professor A. K. Dewdney. Reactions to his theory range from total agreement to profound disgust.

Claim: New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani banned all independent investigators and civilians from Ground Zero so that any physical evidence of explosives among the rubble would be hauled away before it was detected.

Rebuttal: Mayor Giuliani recognized that Ground Zero was a historic location, but it was also a crime scene, and he didn't want people getting hurt while trying to take pictures of the destruction or destroying any evidence that might be useful to federal investigators.

Conspiracy theories about 9/11 grew quickly. Days after the horrible events, William Rodriguez was proclaimed a hero for saving numerous lives at Ground Zero and being the recipient of a miracle for himself. Not many people have heard his story, conspiracy theorists maintain, because it tends to expose the 9/11 investigation as a sham and indicates that the government is involved in a cover-up about the truth of the WTC disaster.

Rodriguez was a janitor on duty the morning of September 11, and he heard and felt explosions shudder the basement sublevels of the North Tower beneath his feet just seconds *before* the jetliner struck the top floors. The walls cracked around him, and he pulled a severely burned man from the basement. Rodriguez and other conspiracy theorists do not believe it possible that a jetliner could slam into the tower ninety floors above the ground and burn a man's arms and face to a crisp in the sublevels within seconds of impact.

According to Rodriguez, NBC News spent a full day at his house interviewing him about the serious allegations that he had made. His eyewitness account was backed up by fourteen people who were on the scene with him and felt the explosions go off. At the last minute, he says, NBC dropped the story, and some reporters told him to keep quiet or his life would be in danger.

Conspiracy theorists state that Rodriguez's testimony clearly demonstrates that the WTC towers were brought down by controlled demolition. Rodriguez says he lost two hundred friends when the towers collapsed and that he became their voice speaking out for the truth.

As the years pass, even more conspiracy theories about the 9/11 attacks have sprung up, such as the following claims:

IGNORED WARNINGS

- A top-secret U.S. agency eavesdropped on a conversation before September 11 between an individual later suspected to be the terrorist commander of the 9/11 attacks and the chief hijacker, but it took no action.
- An Iranian deportee called police from his jail cell and warned of the planned attack on the WTC. No action was taken.
- The National Security Agency intercepted a conversation in Arabic in which the participants discussed something big about to happen in the U.S. very soon.
- U.S. intelligence intercepted two messages on September 10 that a terrorist attack would take place on the next day: "Zero Hour is tomorrow."

INDIVIDUALS WHO RECEIVED ADVANCE WARNINGS ABOUT THE ATTACKS

- Mayor Giuliani admitted to ABC anchorman Peter Jennings that he received a warning that the South Tower was about to collapse.
- *Newsweek* magazine learned that top Pentagon officials were warned not to fly after September 10.
- A former U.S. senator warned Condoleezza Rice on September 6 not to travel in the next several days because a terrorist attack inside the U.S. was imminent.
- The FBI learned that some Middle Easterners in the New York area were warned not to go to lower Manhattan on September 11.

In 2005, Dylan Avery's documentary *Loose Change* was uploaded to the internet and quickly amassed millions of views. Among the theories that Avery popularized were the claim that the towers could only have been brought down by previously planted demolition charges and the United 93 flight never crashed in Pennsylvania but was rather landed at Cleveland and the still-living passengers sent to a NASA research center.

Believers in the various 9/11 conspiracy theories are known as "Truthers" and they stubbornly cling to their beliefs. Conspiracy historian Kathryn S. Olmsted has categorized most of these Truthers into two categories—LIHOP (Let It Happen on Purpose) and MIHOP (Made It Happen on Purpose)—both of which presume that the U.S. government knew more than it let on.

Believers in the various 9/11 conspiracy theories are known as "Truthers" and they stubbornly cling to their beliefs.

As of late 2020, roughly one in six Americans believed that the Bush administration knew about the attacks but did not act in order to bring about the Iraq War and roughly a third were not certain.

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2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

It is an article of faith in some parts of the American electorate that the 2020 presidential election results were fake.

For many supporters of President Donald Trump, the 2020 presidential election is not only one of the greatest outrages in American history but the result of a devious and wide-ranging conspiracy to upend the very foundations of democracy. This is not the first time that some Americans have believed that sinister plots were weighing against the power of their votes. In the early 1800s, the Anti-Masonic Party inveighed against Freemason elites they believed were corrupting government institutions and murdering their opponents. After the 2004 election, many Democrats thought that Republicans, possibly with the help of the Ohio secretary of state, had tampered with voting machines to deliver fake results that won George W. Bush reelection. But the 2020 election conspiracy theories proved far more long-lasting and popular.

It started years earlier in the 2016 election. Even though he won the presidency through a majority of Electoral College votes, Trump claimed that he only lost the popular vote because millions of undocumented immigrants had voted for Hillary Clinton. This built on long-running conspiracy theories about Democrats, and liberals like George Soros were either encouraging illegal immigration or actively importing people to gain votes. Though Trump’s voter fraud commission disbanded in 2018 after failing to substantiate its claims, he and his fellow conspiracy theorists continued to say that the results were faked by Democrats and warned preemptively that the 2020 election would be stolen as well.

When Trump again lost the popular vote that year to Joe Biden but also failed to secure enough Electoral College votes to win the presidency, he and many of his followers believed that the only way this could have happened was Democratic fraud on a nearly unprecedented scale. According to believers, the conspiracy to deny Trump the election was an organized, well-funded campaign that attacked the integrity of the vote from multiple angles, including:

- Seemingly common paperwork errors by vote counters that saw numbers drop for Trump were intentional.
- Democrats’ promotion of mail-in ballots, which they claimed was for safety concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic, was a smokescreen for more easily faked votes. In October 2020, a former Houston police captain had pulled over a truck and held the driver at gunpoint, mistakenly believing that the man (whose truck was filled with air-

conditioning repair equipment) was hauling 750,000 mail-in ballots signed by Hispanic children whose fingerprints could not be traced.

STOP The STEAL!
TRUMP PENCE MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!
JOKE 2020

Convinced by President Trump and conspiracy groups like QAnon that the election was a fraud, Americans protested in the thousands after the 2020 presidential election results were announced.

- Fake votes were being cast using the names of dead people.
- An Italian defense contractor hacked into voting machines in several states via satellite and changed the votes in favor of Biden.
- Cities known for having high Democratic turnout were reporting more votes than they had people.
- Suitcases and truckloads of preprinted ballots were snuck into vote-counting centers.
- The voting machine company Dominion, which was believed to have ties to high-ranking Democrats as well as the Clinton Foundation and George Soros, rigged the results in favor of Biden. Also, their machines may have been hijacked by foreign actors looking to unseat Trump, with some claiming that Dominion's software was created on the orders of the late Venezuelan dictator Hugo Chavez.

Conspiracy theorists, including Trump and many of his high-ranking allies, continued fighting to overturn what they saw as an illegal result for weeks. Election officials in many states were shadowed and threatened by eager conspiracy researchers. Multiple audits combed through state results looking for fraud. Trump and his allies pressured state election officials to agree that many votes were faked.

The stolen election conspiracy came to a head on January 6, 2021, the day that Trump's vice president, Mike Pence, was in the House of Representatives to officially certify the election results and declare Biden the new president. Leading a nearby rally called "Save America," Trump—who had also repeatedly pressed Pence not to certify and promised that the rally "will be wild!"—called on attendees to head to the Capitol and "take back our country." Thousands of conspiracy believers massed at the Capitol and began fighting their way through the undermanned police force protecting the building. The mob eventually broke into the Capitol, narrowly missing Pence, who some had said they wanted to hang. Others were later discovered to have lists of politicians to seize or assassinate. Eventually, the police were reinforced and the rioters either arrested or turned away. Five people died as a result of the riot.

Afterward, new conspiracy theories flourished about the January 6 riot being a false flag event. Some believed it had been incited by the FBI as an excuse to arrest Trump supporters. Others thought that secret elites had planned it all (a Three Percenter militia member said that Skull and Bones, Scientology, and Mormonism all somehow secretly conned him into attending), and still others claimed that the only violent actors at the riot were actually antifa members dressed in pro-Trump gear.

The conspiracy theory about the 2020 election's fraudulence remained extremely popular to the point where it had become mainstream thinking in many circles. Over a year after the election, anywhere from half to two-thirds of Republicans believed that Trump was still the legitimate president.

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Conspiracy
Secret Society
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AGENDA 21

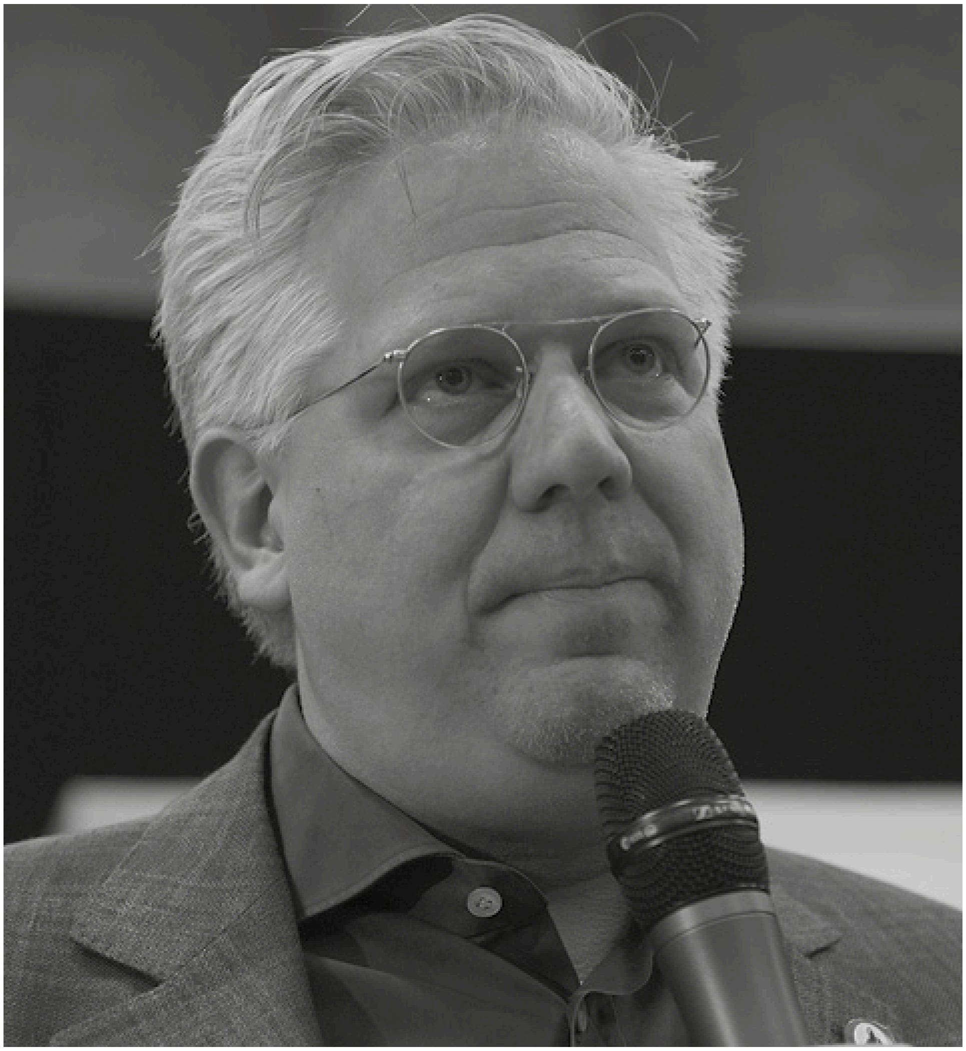
A seemingly innocuous 1992 planning document is believed by some to contain a diabolical plan to establish a One World Government.

At the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, nearly 180 world leaders signed a nonbinding agreement that they would work together in a "global partnership for sustainable development." While to many observers, this seemed like just another boilerplate statement of intent to combat the looming environmental crisis, others saw nothing less than a blueprint for the New World Order.

A slew of groups from the John Birch Society to the Tea Party movement believed that Agenda 21's support for limiting sprawl, encouraging mass transit, and reducing carbon emissions was just a smokescreen for totalitarian environmentalists to destroy property rights, among other developments. The UN's vague wording likely helped the document to become a tabula rasa for conspiracy theorists to see it as confirmation of their fears.

During the 1990s, fringe antigovernment groups, UN haters, climate change deniers, and Newt Gingrich fueled these fears. Their theories hit the mainstream after the post-2008 rise of the Tea Party, after which numerous local and even state governments began passing resolutions that tried to block everything from public transportation to mandatory contraception to lists of concealed-carry firearms owners in the name of stopping Agenda 21. In 2012—the same year Glenn Beck published a novel named *Agenda 21* about a future America ruled by despotic, socialist environmentalists—the Republican Party added a resolution to its national platform calling Agenda 21 "destructive and insidious."

More recently, Agenda 21 theories have multiplied online, where they found a receptive audience with anti-environmental and antivaccine groups.



Conservative political commentator and radio host Glenn Beck published Agenda 21 in 2012, a fictional take on what happens in a world in which the UN's agenda has taken effect.

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AIDS/HIV

Conspiracy theorists argue that AIDS did not come out of Africa, but out of secret government laboratories that created this and other terrible weapons of biological warfare.

The Kenyan ecologist Wangari Maathai, the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize, took full advantage of the international attention that she received in 2004 to state her claim that the AIDS virus was a deliberately created biological warfare agent. She disputed the theory that AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) had originated monkeys.

The U.S. State Department congratulated Maathai on winning the Peace Prize but disagreed with her claims that the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) believed to cause AIDS was invented as a bioweapon in some Western laboratory for the purpose of mass extermination. While one might expect such a response from the State Department, conspiracy theorists countered that what they believe to be a prime objective of the New World Order is the dramatic reduction of the Earth's population.

Credit for the discovery of the virus that causes was settled by lawsuit in 1987 after Dr. Robert Gallo of the National Cancer Institute and Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute in Paris both claimed to have isolated the virus sometime in 1984. The co-discoverers of the virus have never agreed about the origin of HIV or the birthplace of AIDS. Montagnier believed that the origin of the virus remains a mystery and that it was important to distinguish between its origins and the AIDS epidemic. Gallo, the more influential of the two scientists, insisted that the virus could have stemmed from a common viral ancestor found in animals and that it was passed to humans by monkeys. Gallo claimed that Ann Giudici Fettner, a freelance journalist who had lived in Africa, told him in 1983, a year before he discovered the virus, that it came from green monkeys in central Africa. However, in her book *The Truth about AIDS*, Fettner never refers to green monkeys and emphasizes her opinion that AIDS began as an American disease. In spite of the paucity of scientific papers to substantiate Gallo's green monkey theory, the explanation remained a favorite of the media and the public and circulated widely until the late 1990s when another group of American scientists claimed that they had discovered the origin of the virus in a species of chimpanzee.

A large number of conspiracy theorists have never bought these Africa-centered theories. Though the disease had likely spread secretly in the United States for years, it was not until 1981 that journalists and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) began to report on clusters of a strange new pneumonia-like sickness sweeping through gay men in New York and San Francisco. By the time the CDC identified the illness as AIDS in 1982, it had already infected tens of thousands and was beginning to show up in Africa. In 1984 Gallo became famous for discovering that green monkeys in Africa that had been incubating the disease for centuries before the epidemic began. But it was clearly unlikely that every American contracting AIDS at the start of the epidemic had traveled to Africa and been bitten by green monkeys. Some began to suspect other causes.

Early in the 1970s rumors had begun circulating about secret government research in biological warfare and about scientists who were conducting experiments in "species-jumping," mixing viruses and seeding them into animal and human cell cultures. In 1971 President Richard Nixon combined the U.S. Army's biological warfare department at Fort Detrick, Maryland, with the National Cancer Institute. Although the combination was explained to the public as part of the president's "War on Cancer," the program also united the army's DNA and genetic engineering programs with anticancer research and molecular biology projects. In addition, cancer research programs conducted by private companies were blended into anticancer research projects of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the CDC, and the World Health Organization (WHO). As research progressed, dozens of new laboratory hybrids, recombinant and mutant viruses, were engineered. A few scientists with social consciences began to warn others that some of the newly designed viruses could be extremely dangerous if released from the laboratory. Because of the efforts of a few whistle-blowers, word got out that government scientists had achieved a synthetic biological agent that did not exist naturally and for which no natural immunity could be acquired.

Knowledge of what had been achieved spread rapidly to other government researchers throughout the world. In 1973 the Danish pathologist Johannes Clemmesen warned that the transmissibility of such genetically altered viral agents could cause a world epidemic of cancer if they ever left the confines of the laboratory.

Although most people are content with Robert Gallo's explanation that the AIDS epidemic is the result of a primate virus jumping species, conspiracy theorists have developed a number of their own explanations for AIDS/HIV. Here are some of the most persistent theories:

- Edward Hooper, author of *The River: A Journey to the Source of HIV-AIDS*, advances the theory that HIV evolved from SIV (simian immunodeficiency virus), found in the chimpanzee. Hooper outlines a scenario that has as its villain Dr. Hilary Koprowski, a virologist working for Philadelphia's Wistar Research Institute, who in the early 1950s used a hastily brewed chimpanzee kidney culture to concoct a million doses of oral vaccine for a mass experimental polio vaccination program in the Belgian Congo. Koprowski's urgency and haste in conducting the mass vaccination was fostered by the pharmaceutical company's putting pressure on him to beat Dr. Salk and Dr. Sabin to the market with the first commercially available polio vaccine.
- The WHO, controlled by the New World Order, created the AIDS epidemic by deliberately administering contaminated vaccines to people in developing countries in the 1970s. Africa was targeted first, in a smallpox eradication program, so that a link could be subsequently made that AIDS had originated in Africa.
- Sometime around 1977, U.S. military scientists bioengineered HIV at Fort Detrick by splicing the Visna and HTLV viruses. It was tested on prison inmates who volunteered to be injected with the virus in exchange for an early release. From these released prisoners, the virus spread to the wider population. A version of this theory was spread by Dr. Robert Strecker, whose self-produced video *The Strecker Memorandum* also claimed that AIDS could be spread by mosquitos.
- The Soviet KGB created the viruses, then planted disinformation that the CIA was behind the spread of the disease.

HIV/AIDS is an international health crisis. Although effective treatments are now available, there is still no cure for this disease. Many charities and government agencies work around the year to promote AIDS awareness.

- AIDS was the product of biological warfare research conducted by the U.S. government for the express purpose of killing minorities and gay men.
- Dr. Alan Cantwell (*AIDS and the Doctors of Death: An Inquiry into the Origin of the AIDS Epidemic* and *Queer Blood: The Secret AIDS Genocide Plot*) argued that HIV is a genetically modified virus introduced by U.S. government scientists into the gay and bisexual population under the guise of hepatitis B experiments that began in 1978.
- Dr. Gary Glum (*Full Disclosure*) claimed he received top-secret intelligence that the AIDS virus was created at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory on Long Island. His theory has it that the WHO and the Red Cross are complicit in a conspiracy to spread AIDS, which was released in 1978 as part of the Illuminati and New World Order's overall population-control plan. Glum warns that the virus is far more easily transmitted than medical reports stated and can be spread through kissing, mosquito bites, and casual contact. Dr. Glum also maintains that medical cures for AIDS exist but have been suppressed by the government.
- Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam and the New Black Panther Party accused Jewish doctors of creating AIDS as a means of destroying Black people throughout the world. In 2005, *The Lancet* reported that one out of seven Black Americans believed a different version of this theory in which the culprit was the U.S. government.
- Dr. Leonard G. Horowitz (*Emerging Viruses: AIDS and Ebola—Nature, Accident, or Intentional?* and *Death in the Air: Globalism, Terrorism, and Toxic Warfare*) theorized

that U.S. defense contractors engineered AIDS to target Jews, Blacks, and Hispanics as part of a massive population-control program.

- In a 1983 article from the Boston *Gay Community News*, Charles Shively referenced a theory claiming that AIDS originated with African Swine Fever Virus (AFSV), which spread to the U.S. accidently after the CIA introduced it to Cuba in another harebrained asymmetric warfare scheme. He also pondered whether CDC doctors "would just decide to kill all the queers, Haitians, and IV [intravenous] drug users exposed to AIDS?"
- Philip S. Duke (*The AIDS-ET Connection*) believes that the source of AIDS was not actually Earth-bound but part of an alien plot to reduce the human population to the point where they could begin colonizing the planet.

In 1992, Evgenii Primakov, head of the FSB (the post-Soviet version of the KGB), admitted that in the mid-1980s the USSR had initiated a massive disinformation campaign to spread the idea that AIDS was created by "experiments by the USA‘s secret services and the Pentagon with new types of biological weapons that have spun out of control." "Operation Denver" proved so successful, in part because it built on rumors that were already circulating, that it spread around the world. Theories that connected AIDS to the CIA proved particularly popular in Africa. A 1985 issue of Lyndon LaRouche's magazine reprinted an English translation of an article about AIDS as a possible bioweapon that had originally been planted in a Soviet newspaper by the KGB.

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AIRSHIP OF 1897

In 1897, years before any known terrestrial agency had accomplished heavier-than-air flight, members of a secret society in contact with extraterrestrials piloted a large airship, often described as resembling a cone-shaped steamboat, across the United States and later throughout the world.

In 1897 the world was poised confidently on the brink of the twentieth century. Four years earlier, Karl Benz and Henry Ford had built their first four-wheeled automobiles. In 1895 Auguste and Louis Lumière had invented the cinematograph, Guglielmo Marconi had invented radio telegraphy, and Konstantin Tsiolkovsky had formulated the principle of rocket reaction propulsion.

The Royal Automobile Club was founded in London in 1897, and cars on the ground were going faster every year. But there were no heavier-than-air vehicles racing across the skies—

and a number of brilliant scientists declared that it was aerodynamically impossible to build such flying machines.

Nevertheless, on April 7, 1897, citizens of Wesley, Iowa, sighted a cone-shaped airship with brightly illuminated windows in its side. The witnesses were unable to determine how it was propelled or what sustained it in the air.

On April 15 the airship landed two miles north of Springfield, Illinois. The craft's occupants explained that they had landed to repair their electrical apparatus and searchlight equipment.

On April 17 the airship returned to Iowa and set down outside of Waterloo. One of the occupants brandished a rifle to keep the curious several hundred yards from the machine. Journalists described the airship as being about forty feet long and constructed like a giant cigar, with winglike attachments on the sides and a steering apparatus in the rear. The machine was surmounted by a cupola on its roof.

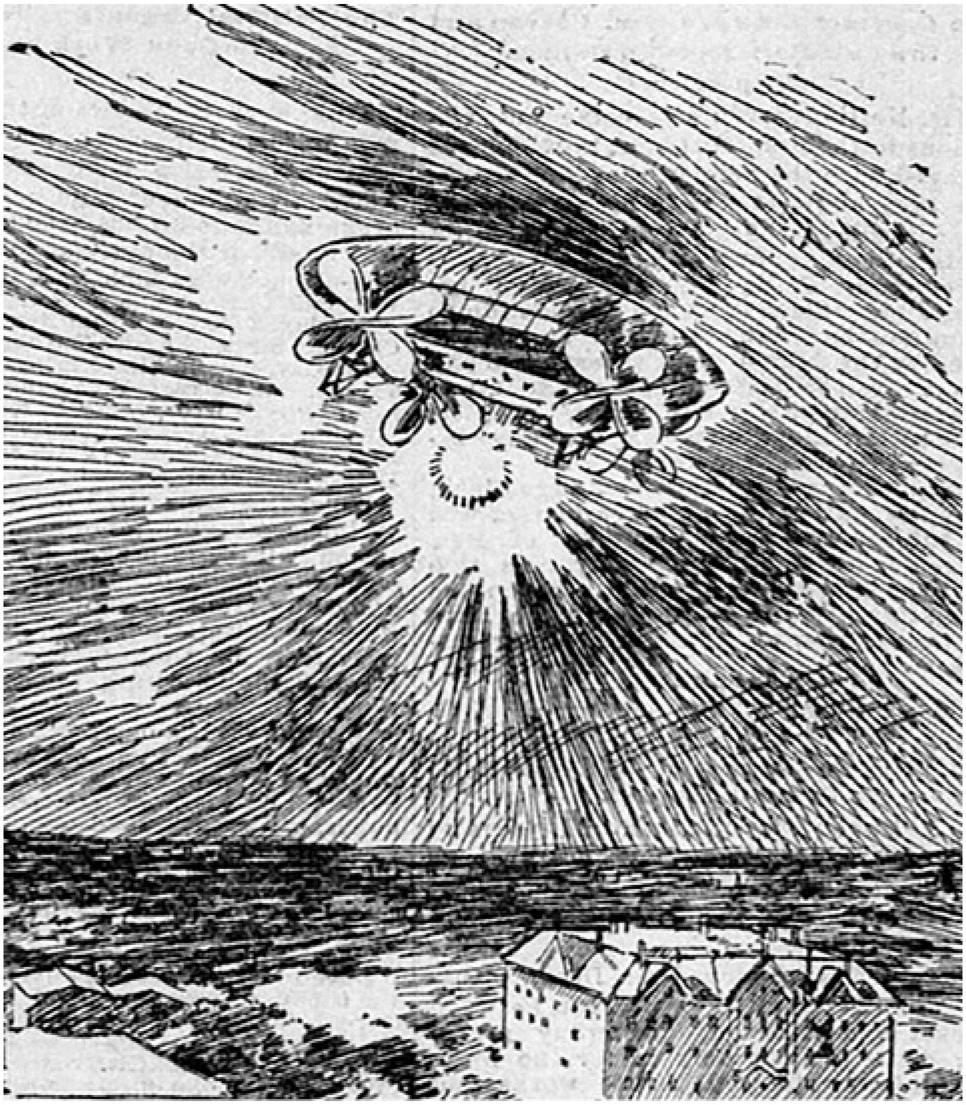
On April 21 and 22, the airship barnstormed Arkansas and Texas. In Harrisburg, Arkansas, it awakened a former senator after midnight. Members of the flight crew informed him that the builder of the craft was a brilliant inventor from St. Louis who had discovered the secret of suspending the laws of gravity. Nineteen years had been invested in building the airship, but because it was not quite perfected, the crew preferred to travel at night. Once they had accomplished a successful voyage to the planet Mars, they would put the airship on public exhibition.

On April 24 a prominent Texas farmer was awakened at midnight by a strange whirring sound and the brilliant lights of what he assumed were angels in a celestial vehicle. The visitors informed him that they came not from heaven, but from a small town in Iowa, where five such airships had been constructed. The craft were built of a newly discovered material that had the property of self-sustenance in the air. The motive power was a highly condensed electricity.

Throughout the following weeks, landing and contact reports came from areas all across the United States.

During the summer months of 1897, sightings were reported from other parts of the world. In July and August mysterious aerial objects were seen over Sweden and Norway. On August 13 what appeared to be the same aerial craft was sighted off the coast of Norway and also over Vancouver, British Columbia.

Simply put, in 1897 no terrestrial agency had yet constructed an aerial vehicle that could traverse the globe with the speed and ease of the airship piloted by the mysterious inventors from Iowa or St. Louis. Because of this fact, many researchers believe that the builders of the 1897 airship belonged to a secret society, perhaps one that had been in touch with extraterrestrial intelligences—or their records and artifacts—for thousands of years.



Sightings of the mystery airship actually began in late 1896 as this illustration from the November 1896 San Francisco Call *indicates.*

Numerous European occult groups have been molded around the belief that a secret society centuries ago achieved a high level of scientific knowledge and has carefully guarded this dangerous learning from the rest of humanity ever since. A common theme in these beliefs is that certain men of genius in ancient Egypt and Persia were given access to the records of the advanced technologies of the antediluvian world. Many hundreds of years ago, these ancient masters apparently learned to duplicate many of the feats of the Titans of Atlantis—and so attracted the attention of extraterrestrials who had been monitoring Earth for signs of advanced intelligence.

Perhaps recognizing the awesome responsibility bestowed by possessing this ancient knowledge, the secret society may have then decided to keep their discoveries to themselves until the world became enlightened enough to deal wisely with such advanced technical accomplishment. But still, now and then the secret society may decide that the time is propitious to make one of its discoveries known to the outside world. Such intervention in the affairs of the great mass of humanity is usually accomplished by carefully feeding certain fragments of research to "outside" scientists whose work and attitude have been adjudged particularly deserving.

On the other hand, the secret society's members may feel little or no such responsibility. They may be merely biding their time until they turn most of humanity into their slaves. For hundreds of years, certain scholars have worried about global conspiracies being conducted by secret societies waiting until the right moment to achieve complete world domination, perhaps achieved through air superiority.

The mysterious airship disappeared from the skies for twelve years. On March 24, 1909, a police constable in Peterborough, England, reported having heard a sound similar to a motorcar overhead. Looking up, he spotted an airship shining a powerful light and traveling as fast as an express train. By July the strange aerial machine was sighted in the skies over New Zealand, and it remained there for six weeks before it returned to the United States. There was one reported overflight in New England in August, then the airship disappeared until the night of December 12, when residents of Long Island heard a buzzing sound, resembling the rattle and hum of a high-speed motor, coming from the starlit skies above them.

The last reported airship sighting came from Memphis, Tennessee, on January 20, 1910. A number of witnesses saw a craft flying very high in the air and at a high rate of speed. It crossed the Mississippi River into Arkansas, veered slightly to the south, and disappeared.

Perhaps the secret society no longer felt that it was necessary to inspire the "outsiders" to pursue the science of aeronautics, for by 1910 there had already been an international aviation competition held in Rheims, France; a flight from the deck of a seagoing cruiser; a takeoff from water by a floatplane; and the first woman pilot had obtained her license.

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ALCHEMY

Some medieval alchemists summoned demons to assist them in their discoveries. Others may have been contacted by extraterrestrials. The ancient demonic knowledge or alien science could be passed on by certain secret societies today.

The essence of medieval alchemy lay in the belief that certain incantations and rituals could persuade or command angelic beings to change base metals into precious ones. The seven principal angels whose favor the alchemist sought were:

- Michael, who could transmute base metals into gold and dissolve any enmity directed toward the alchemist.
- Gabriel, who fashioned silver and foresaw the future.
- Samuel, who protected against physical harm.
- Raphael, Sachiel, Ansel, and Cassiel, who could create various gems and guard the alchemist from attack by negative entities.

Members of the clergy were skeptical that the alchemists were truly calling upon angels, rather than demons in disguise. They recalled the words of the church father Tertullian (c. 160–240), who confirmed earlier beliefs that the "sons of God" referred to in Genesis were evil corrupters who bequeathed their wisdom to mortals with the sole intention of seducing them to mundane pleasures.

Some students of the alchemists' history have stated that their crumbling, yellowed records remain in dusty libraries—more than 100,000 ancient volumes written in a code that has never been sufficiently deciphered. Evidence disinterred from the alchemists' libraries in Europe suggests that certain medieval and Renaissance practitioners conducted experiments with photography, radio transmission, phonography, and aerial flight, as well as the endless quest to transmute base metals into gold. If individuals of exceptional intellect, power, and wealth actually did achieve a high degree of technical accomplishment several centuries ago, perhaps alien life forms established an alliance with some of the alchemists, thinking them worthy of receiving the benefits of extraterrestrial superscience. There may even have been instances in which the mysterious Men in Black (MIB) visited a select number of Earth scientists.

An increasing number of UFO investigators firmly believe that certain secret societies behind terrestrial power structures have been communicating with alien intelligence and receiving guidance from them. Some theorists go so far as to declare that every major improvement in our culture, our science, our technology—literally every major turn humankind has taken throughout history—resulted from this behind-the-scenes alien manipulation.

Albertus Magnus, thirteenth-century bishop of Ratisbon, is said to have been an alchemist who achieved the transmutation of base metals into gold by means of the so-called philosopher's stone. Magnus is also credited with other extraordinary accomplishments, including the invention of the pistol and the cannon. In addition, he reportedly was able to exert control over atmospheric conditions, once even transforming a cold winter's day into a pleasant summer's afternoon so he and his guests could dine comfortably outside. Tradition has it that Magnus bequeathed the philosopher's stone to his distinguished pupil Saint Thomas Aquinas. But once the devout Aquinas had the stone in his possession, he destroyed it, fearful that the accusations of Magnus' having communed with Satan might be true.

Many other alchemists, although never witnessing the legendary philosopher's stone, achieved discoveries of lasting value to humanity. Ramon Llull was credited with the discovery in about 1275 of ethoxyethane (ether); in the sixteenth century, Paracelsus was the first to describe zinc and various chemical compounds in medicine, while Blaise de Vigenère discovered benzoic acid. Discoveries increased during the Renaissance, when such men as Basil Valentine discovered sulfuric acid and Johann Friedrich Boetticher became the first European to produce porcelain.

If an ancient secret society of alchemists and alien superscientists developed a technology that they have managed to keep hidden from outsiders, the matter in perpetual debate is whether the Secret Ones are benevolently guiding us to a time when they can share their accomplishments more openly or are merely awaiting the appropriate moment to conquer the entire world.

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ALIEN ABDUCTIONS

Millions of men and women are being abducted by extraterrestrials and forced to endure medical examinations aboard spaceships in order to determine their eligibility for alien-human crossbreeding experiments. Preparatory to a global invasion of Earth, aliens are creating hybrids to serve as a fifth column within the human population.

Stories of people being abducted by aliens—often including horrifying memories of scientific experiments and torture—have been widespread for decades, especially after the advent of the internet.

Estimates presented at a conference held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in June 1982 suggested that from several hundred thousand to more than 3 million adults in the United States alone have had abduction experiences with UFO entities.

David Webb, an Arlington, Massachusetts solar physicist and cochairman of the Mutual UFO Network, has stated that space aliens have abducted one out of every eight people who have reported seeing UFOs. In many cases, Webb said, the victims undergo some kind of examination, but they usually remember nothing of the on-board experience.

The case of Betty and Barney Hill, a couple then in their forties, has become the archetypal example of humans abducted, examined, and probed by aliens from another world. On September 19, 1961, Betty, a social worker and supervisor of the New Hampshire Welfare Department, and Barney, a mail carrier who was on the governor of New Hampshire's Civil Rights Commission, were returning to their home in New Hampshire from a short Canadian vacation when they noticed a bright object in the night sky and stopped to investigate with a pair of binoculars. Barney perceived what appeared to be windows—and strange beings looking back at him. The Hills got back in their car and began to race down the road. Suddenly unable to control their movements, they were taken from the car and, in a trancelike condition, led to the UFO by humanoids.

The Hills recalled the sensational details of their story only under hypnosis, for the couple had a complete loss of memory concerning the nearly two hours during which they were the chosen guests of the UFOnauts. When the Hills began weekly hypnosis sessions with Benjamin Simon, a Boston psychiatrist, an astonishing pastiche of bizarre physical and mental examinations was revealed. Both told of being examined by aliens in much the same manner as human scientists might treat laboratory animals. Although they had been given hypnotic suggestions that they would forget their experience, their induced amnesia had apparently ruptured in rehypnosis.

Under hypnosis in 1964 Betty, with little or no understanding of astronomy, drew her impressions of a star map that she had seen aboard the alien spaceship. The map was interpreted by Marjorie Fish, an amateur astronomer, member of Mensa, and Ohio schoolteacher. Betty's map showed the location of two stars called Zeta 1 and Zeta 2 Reticuli, allegedly the home base of the space travelers, as well as several other stars in the same part of the sky.

On the night of January 6, 1976, three Liberty, Kentucky, women were abducted by aliens and kept for more than an hour. When they regained consciousness, Louise Smith complained that her neck hurt. When Mona Stafford examined it, she saw a strange red mark like a burn that had not blistered, about three inches long and an inch wide. Elaine Thomas's neck had the same type of mark on it.

Although the peculiar burn marks disappeared in about two days, the three women still could not account for the missing time—nor could they recall more about that night than having seen a UFO overhead and Louise Smith screaming that she could not control her rapidly accelerating automobile.

Later, under hypnosis sessions conducted by Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle, Elaine Thomas remembered that she had been placed on her back in a long, narrow chamber. There were small, dark figures perhaps four feet tall standing near her. One of them placed a blunt instrument against her chest that caused her a great deal of pain.

Louise Smith recalled the frightening appearance of the humanoids and the bizarre environment in which she found herself.

Mona Stafford remembered lying on a table in what seemed to be some kind of operating room. At one point she felt as if her eyes were being pulled out of her skull. At another time, her stomach was blown up like a balloon. She also reported that a number of aliens pulled at her feet, then bent them backward and twisted.

There are numerous accounts in circulation of human-alien sexual interaction during abduction experiences. One of the earliest such reports came from Brazil and was originally published in the magazine O Cruzeiro. Dr. Olvao Fontes, one of the original investigators of the incident, stated that the abductee, Antonio Villas Boas, was a twenty-three-year-old farmer near the town of Francisco de Sales in the state of Minas Gerais. On the night of October 15, 1957, Antonio was plowing alone when an egg-shaped aerial vehicle hovered over his tractor. A few minutes later the object landed, and four occupants dressed in tight-fitting gray coveralls emerged from it. One of the beings grabbed Antonio's arms, but he managed to wrench himself free. (The young, well-muscled farmer said later that his abductors were about his height—five feet four—and strong.) He had not gone far, however, when three other beings got hold of his arms and legs and lifted him off the ground.

Inside the vehicle the aliens brought Antonio to a brightly lighted room. He later said that their speech sounded to him like a series of doglike barks. The young farmer was stripped naked and thoroughly examined. When the beings had finished their examination, he was left alone to rest on a couch. He had not lain there long before he became aware that gray smoke with a disagreeable, suffocating odor had entered the room. Antonio was forced to relieve his nausea by vomiting in a corner.

After a few more minutes, the door to the room opened and a well-proportioned and totally naked woman walked in to join Antonio on the couch. The alien seductress had large blue eyes that seemed to slant outward, a straight nose, high cheekbones, a nearly lipless mouth, and a sharply pointed chin. In spite of the stressful physical examination that he had just endured, Antonio found himself responding to her frank sexual advances. Later he told investigators that the beings must have somehow dosed him with an aphrodisiac. After the sexual act had been consummated, Antonio's clothing was returned, and an alien male indicated that he should get dressed. It was clear that his abductors were finished with him. The next day Antonio became ill. His eyes began to burn and a series of sores broke out on his arms and legs. In the center of each of the sores was a little lump that was very itchy. Two weeks later his face became speckled with yellowish spots.

Ever since the 1960s, alien abductions have been reported with alarming frequency. Many researchers maintain that the kidnappings and physical examinations are part of an alien program of interbreeding. In numerous instances, such as in the case of Antonio Boas, the aliens bring one of their women, whose egg is ready to be fertilized, to a human for insemination.

Many researchers maintain that the kidnappings and physical examinations are part of an alien program of interbreeding.

Some investigators argue that for pregnancy to occur during a sexual act, the male and female must be of the same species. Others counter that alien superscience might have evolved some remarkable method of DNA manipulation or cloning. Either thought is unsettling.

Many researchers say that reading the creation story in Genesis from the perspective of our current awareness of genetic engineering, the interaction between the "sons of God" and the fair daughters of men assumes a rather different interpretation. If the fallen angels of Genesis were actually extraterrestrials conducting experiments on female members of the developing strain of primitive humans, then rather than decadent heavenly beings sinning with Earth's daughters, they were scientists carrying out a directive to provide early humankind with a genetic boost.

Abductees speaking at the Mutual UFO Network's Washington, D.C., conference in June 1987 reported frightening and disorienting aspects of their experiences. They told of the frustration of being partially paralyzed and taken without their consent to undergo medical examinations. They said that they often remembered the events only in fragments and flashes until they underwent hypnotic regression.

Whitley Strieber admitted that when he first realized he had been abducted, he was suicidal. Then he began to investigate some UFO literature and discovered that others had endured similar experiences. He sought out the services of a hypnotist, thinking that perhaps that would alleviate his ordeal, and he wrote the book *Communion* hoping that the memories and the feelings would go away.

Strieber said that he had received thousands of letters from other abductees—people who do not welcome publicity, including entertainers, political leaders, and members of the armed forces in high positions. All of these abductees reported a basic progression of emotions, moving from uneasy, fragmented recollections to a clear memory accompanied by fear.

R. Leo Sprinkle, a onetime professor at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, has speculated that hundreds of thousands of people may have undergone a UFO abduction experience but were not aware of it at the time. Sprinkle lists several characteristics common among people who have had such experiences:

- An episode of missing time. They know that "something" happened between two points of consciousness, but they can't fill in the missing time.
- Disturbing dreams about flying saucers, about being pursued and captured, then examined by doctors in white coats.
- Daytime flashbacks of UFO experiences. While going about their normal daytime activities, abductees will flash back to some kind of UFO image or UFO entity.
- Strange compulsions, such as a strong wish to travel to a certain location or to complete a certain task.
- A sudden interest in UFOs. The abductee may suddenly want to read about UFOS, ancient history, or pyramids and crystals, without knowing why.

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ALIEN AUTOPSY

If this film of an alien autopsy being secretly performed by U.S. government doctors is authentic, it is the most important footage ever made in the history of motion pictures.

London-based film producer Ray Santilli claims that he had never heard any of the stories about the crash of an extraterrestrial vehicle near Roswell, New Mexico, in June 1947, nor was he at all familiar with the rumors of dead aliens strewn near the wreckage. He happened to be in Cleveland, Ohio, in the summer of 1993 in search of some rare footage of Elvis Presley, never imagining that he would have an opportunity to purchase some even rarer film of a major cosmic event.

According to Santilli, an elderly freelance cameraman who had shot the footage of Elvis for Universal News in the summer of 1955 sold him the three-minute sequence of Presley, then offered to sell some very different material that he had filmed during his time in the military. The cameraman, now in his eighties, explained that the footage came from the Roswell crash site and that it included some incredible images of the autopsy of one or more aliens from the flying saucer.

ALIEN LIFE-FORM
AUTOPSY ROOM
DANGER
RESTRICTED AREA
CAUTION - TOXIC GASES
PHOTOGRAPHY / RECORDING
PROHIBITED

A display at the Roswell International UFO Museum and Research Center in New Mexico depicts the famous alien autopsy that the government supposedly performed on a deceased alien.

Although ignorant of the Roswell incident, Santilli became interested in the alleged alien autopsy. The cameraman didn't appear to be a nut or a scam artist, so Santilli agreed to view the film. When they arrived at the man's home, the veteran cameraman put a reel on an old projector and projected the images directly on the wall.

What Santilli witnessed in the old cameraman's home in Cleveland in 1993 is allegedly what millions saw on their television screens on the evening of August 28, 1995, on the Fox network's *Alien Autopsy: Fact or Fiction?* At first the images are hazy, but then the viewer sees, lying on an autopsy table, what appears to be a smallish humanoid with a swollen belly (with no navel), huge dark eyes, a damaged right leg, a broken and swollen left leg, a cut-off right hand, and a bruise at the temple. Soon the pathologists are cutting the creature open and removing body organs that appear to be from an alien species. The entity resembles a human being in many ways, except for its innards—and its twelve fingers and twelve toes.

Santilli said later that he thought the footage incredible and offered immediately to buy it. The cameraman told him that on June 2, 1947, he had received direct orders from General Clement McMullen informing him that there had been a crash in the White Sands area and that he was to go there immediately and film everything he could. Santilli came away with twenty-two reels of film, twenty-one safety prints, and one negative.

UFO researchers were arguing about the controversial film long before it was shown on Fox. Many condemned it outright as a hoax because the alien looked too human to be an extraterrestrial or in some way didn't fit their conception of how an alien Roswell crash victim should look. Others championed the footage and believed that it would convince millions—and most of all the scientific establishment—that UFOs from outer space were visiting Earth. Some UFOlogists argued that in their opinion the alien in the autopsy room could not have come from the Roswell crash but had been retrieved from an early UFO crash site near Socorro, New Mexico. And then there were the purists who were offended by the very thought of commercially exploiting what could be the most important film of the century.

An analysis of the film confirmed the elderly cameraman's claim that the autopsy footage had been shot on vintage 16mm film and that it had likely been filmed with a Bell & Howell Film Camera, favored by the U.S. military in the 1940s. Samples cut from a number of leaders from the film and sent for analysis to Kodak labs in Hollywood, London, and Copenhagen revealed identifying symbols used by Kodak from 1947 to 1967. Bob Shell, editor of *Shutterbug* magazine, was given two segments of three frames each of the autopsy room footage. Shell, a photo technical consultant for the FBI, confirmed the snippets to be pre-1956 film.

As far as the props used in the autopsy footage, every artifact appears to date from circa 1947. The telephone is an AT&T model from 1946. The wall clock is a model popular since 1938. The instruments utilized in the autopsy itself were confirmed as standard for the time period by Dr. Cyril Wecht, a highly respected forensic scientist, ex-president of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

While the props check out as accurate, researchers have many problems with the alien corpse. In this time of remarkably realistic special effects in motion pictures, even the most earnest defender of the authenticity of the footage has to concede that it would be no problem for a Hollywood makeup specialist to create a realistic alien body. Is the badly mutilated corpse on the autopsy table that of an extraterrestrial space traveler, a young female human with polydactylism (having more than the normal number of fingers and toes), a young polydactyl female human who died of Turner's syndrome, or a foam rubber model of a young female with polydactylism, Turner's syndrome, and other anomalies?

Turner's syndrome affects about one in every 2,500 females, and a deceased victim of the syndrome was named by many physicians as a likely candidate for the "alien" on the table. The identifying characteristics of Turner's syndrome are short stature (a mean height of four feet seven inches); lack of secondary sexual characteristics; medical problems, such as ear, eye, thyroid difficulties; secondary features such as low-set ears, low hairline, webbed neck, and puffy hands and feet. Because of such characteristics being evident in the "alien body," many pathologists did not believe that they were seeing a dummy in the autopsy footage.

On the other hand, there were a number of pathologists who did not believe that they were seeing either a dummy or a human being in the autopsy film. Professor Christopher Milroy, Home Office pathologist, University of Sheffield, commented that although the close-up of the entity's brain was a bit out of focus, it did not have the appearance of a human brain. Professor M. J. Mihatsch of the University of Basel, Switzerland, admitted that he could not identify as human any of the organs the doctors in the footage removed from the alien. Wecht, famous for his testimony in such trials as those of O. J. Simpson and Scott Peterson, said that he could not place the organs in a human abdominal context and could not associate them in any way with the human body as he knew it. Professor Pierluigi Baima Bollone, University of Turin, concluded that there was not one single organ that in any way resembled any human organ. In general, there seemed to be a consensus among pathologists all over the world that the body on the table was not a dummy, but that of some biological being, extraterrestrial or not.

The controversy over the alien autopsy film is not likely to be easily resolved. Some researchers consider it the most ingenious hoax of the century....

The controversy over the alien autopsy film is not likely to be easily resolved. Some researchers consider it the most ingenious hoax of the century; others laugh and wonder that any UFO investigator could take the footage seriously. According to some investigators, Ray Santilli has made controversial statements about the origins of the film and has perhaps inadvertently done more damage to his own credibility than all the debunkers' efforts to prove him a scam artist. From his arrival on the UFO scene, Santilli demonstrated his ignorance of the field of research and his lack of respect for all the unwritten protocols of the UFO community.

The conspiracy theorists will always have the last word on any subject. For example, in the mid-1990s rumors circulated that Steven Spielberg had managed to acquire the Holy Grail of UFO research—actual U.S. military footage of the 1947 flying saucer crash outside of Roswell and the dead alien crew. According to the rumor, Spielberg purchased the film from a retired army cameraman who had kept it hidden for nearly fifty years. Spielberg intended to use the remarkable footage in a new motion picture, *Project X*, to be released in June 1997, the fiftieth anniversary of the Roswell incident. When no such film was forthcoming and June 1997 came and went without any blockbuster Spielberg UFO presentation, the rumors died.

Then at last it dawned on certain UFO researchers and conspiracy buffs: For some reason, perhaps due to the machinations of the New World Order or some shadow agency of the U.S. government, Spielberg had backed away from the project. Although blocked from informing the public about the extraordinary film, he had managed to get it to Ray Santilli, who, with the Fox network, revealed it to the world on August 28, 1995.

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AL-QAEDA

Al-Qaeda issued a statement in 1998 that it is their duty as holy warriors to kill all U.S. citizens.

Al-Qaeda (sometimes spelled al-Qaida), Arabic for "the Base," is a terrorist group founded by Osama bin Laden in the late 1980s to unite Arabs who fought against the Soviet invasion in

Afghanistan. Bin Laden, son of a billionaire Saudi family, is reported to have inherited approximately $300 million that he used to finance the terrorist group.

At one point, al-Qaeda may have had up to several thousand members in a loosely organized network of cells throughout the world. For years, it also served as a kind of conduit for a worldwide network that includes many Sunni Islamic extremist groups such as Egyptian Islamic Jihad, al-Gama'at al-islamiyya, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, and the Harakat ul-Mujahidin. Al-Qaeda also maintains moneymaking front organizations, solicits donations from like-minded supporters, and illicitly siphons funds from donations to legitimate Muslim charities.

Dr. Ayman al-Zawahri (right) led the Egyptian chapter of Al-Qaeda, and when Osama bin Laden (left) was killed by American troops, al-Zawahri took over for him.

Conspiracy theorists fear that the great terrorist acts of our time were openly planned in radical mosques in Hamburg, London, and Paris, offering Muslims the opportunity to become mujahideen (holy warriors) in a jihad (holy war) in which they might achieve holy martyrdom. According to many conspiracy researchers, the shadowy figures of the New World Order and a number of secret societies were in fact behind the machinations of groups like al-Qaeda, fanning the flames of planetary conflagration.

In February 1998 al-Qaeda issued a statement entitled "The World Islamic Front for Jihad against the Jews and Crusaders," declaring that it was the duty of all Muslims to kill U.S.

citizens—civilian or military—and their allies everywhere. Some of the terrible acts of death and destruction sown by al-Qaeda are the following:

- 1992: Conducted three bombings that hit U.S. troops in Aden, Yemen.
- 1993: Al-Qaeda–trained Somalian tribesmen conducted ambushes of U.S. peacekeeping forces in Somalia. Downed two helicopters in Mogadishu and killed fifteen U.S. Army Rangers.
- 1994: Plotted to blow up the Israeli embassy in Washington. Planned to assassinate Pope John Paul II in Manila. Attempted to arrange the simultaneous bombings of U.S. and Israeli embassies in Manila and other Asian capitals.
- 1995: Planned to assassinate President Bill Clinton when he visited the Philippines. Bombed a military complex in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, housing U.S. troops, killing five Americans and wounding forty-two.
- 1996: Truck-bombed a U.S. military complex near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, killing nineteen U.S. airmen and wounding 515 people, including 240 Americans.
- 1998: Bombed the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, killing at least 301 persons and injuring more than five thousand. Attempted to bomb the U.S. embassy in Kampala, Uganda.
- 2000: Bombed the USS *Cole* while the ship was in port in Yemen, killing seventeen and injuring thirty-nine others.
- 2001: Crashed hijacked airliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, killing nearly three thousand and igniting America's long-running global war against terror networks.
- 2004: Exploded series of bombs on trains in Madrid, Spain, killing 191 people. Several perpetrators later blew themselves up to escape capture.
- 2014: Unsuccessfully planned to hijack a Pakistani frigate and use it to sink a U.S. naval vessel in order to provoke war between the two countries.

Al-Qaeda's long-term agenda is to establish a pan-Islamic caliphate (a khalifah is a great Islamic kingdom ruled by a caliph, following no laws outside of the Qur'an) throughout the world by working with allied Islamic extremist groups to overthrow regimes it judges "non-Islamic" and expelling Westerners and non-Muslims from Muslim countries.

After the September 9, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, the Bush administration tried desperately to establish links between Iraq and al-Qaeda in order to add another justification, besides Iraq's supposed weapons of mass destruction, for declaring war against Iraq. In late 2001 Vice President Dick Cheney said it was "pretty well confirmed" that in April 2000 in Prague, Czech Republic, the 9/11 mastermind, Mohamed Atta, met with a senior Iraqi intelligence official. In his speech aboard an aircraft carrier on May 1, 2003, President Bush told the cheering troops that the liberation of Iraq would be crucial in the war on terror because they had "removed an ally of al Qaeda and cut off a source of terrorist funding." Cheney also claimed the acquisition of Iraqi intelligence files that connected Iraq to al-Qaeda, the September 11 attacks, and the 1993 World Trade Center bombing in a relationship that went back to the beginning of the 1990s.

Despite such repeated assertions of a link between Saddam Hussein and Iraq and Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda—which some have defined as a government-led conspiracy theory—

subsequent FBI and CIA investigations found no direct relationship between the two, other than a possible agreement, spoken or understood, to keep out of each other's way.

Some conspiracy theorists have tried to suggest that al-Qaeda was either not involved in 9/11 at all or that the U.S. government knew about it ahead of time but (as with similar theories about Roosevelt not acting on intelligence about Japan attacking Pearl Harbor) decided not to heed warnings. Some of these theories proliferated so widely that in 2011, al-Qaeda's magazine indignantly demanded that the Iranian government—with whom they were frequently at odds—stop making the claim.

Although al-Qaeda was organized by Osama bin Laden, he was not its only leader. After bin Laden by killed by U.S. special forces in 2011, leadership shifted to his appointed successor, Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, an Egyptian surgeon from an upper-class family. While al-Qaeda today is a shadow of its former self, the network's diffuse nature suggests that its far-flung affiliates have the potential to continue despite a continual war of attrition on their leadership by America and its allies.

Al-Qaeda's movements, plots, and attacks are greatly facilitated by the internet. No matter how separated individual terrorists may be from any central authority or command, they need only go online to find out what their leaders are thinking and what they want done next. Muslim faithful need only listen to their radio or television to hear coded al-Qaeda threats, vows, and pronouncements that tell them when to act.

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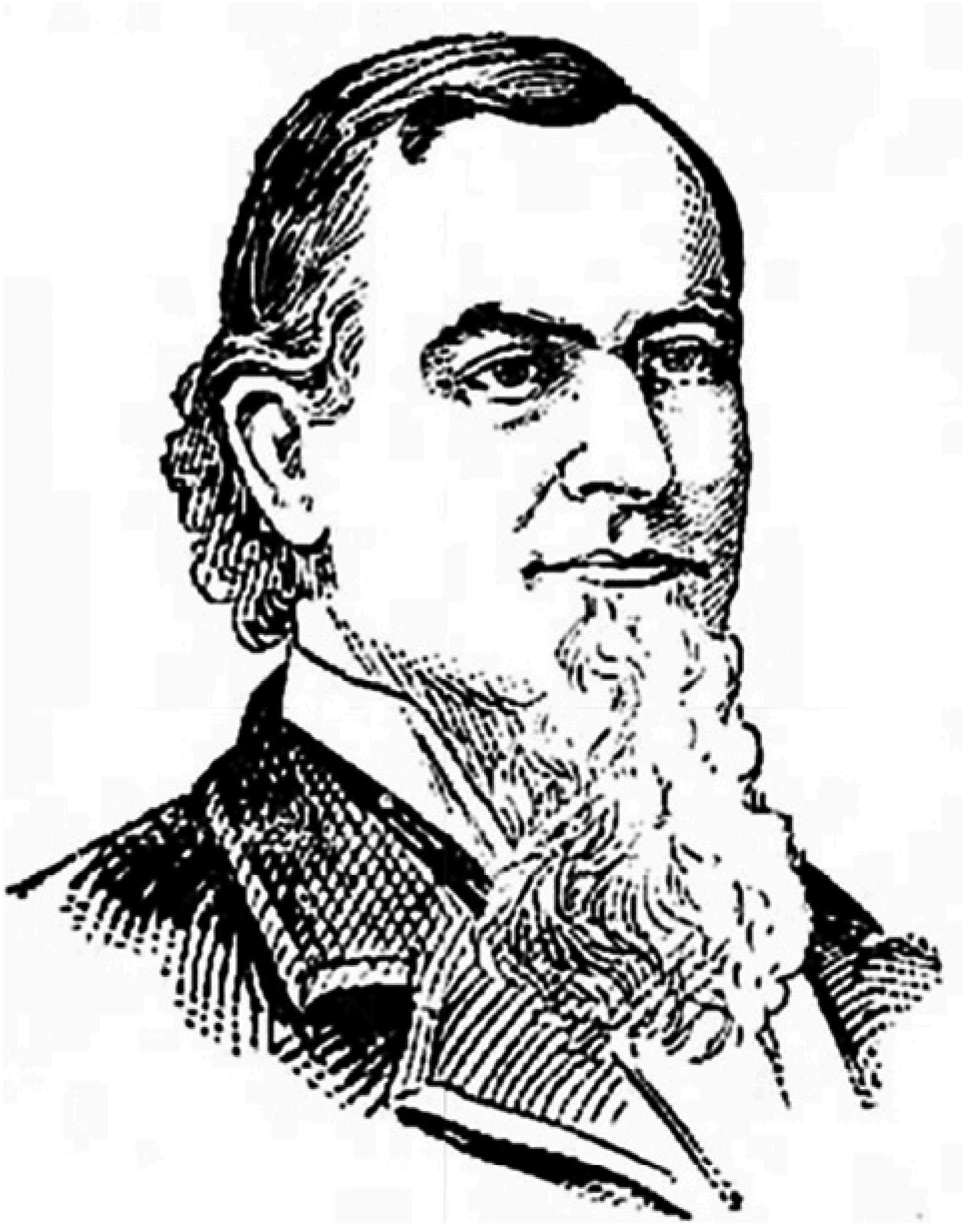
AMERICAN PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

Responding to a perceived Roman Catholic conspiracy to take control of the United States, the APA formed a secret society to keep all Catholics out of public office.

The American Protective Association (APA) was a secret proscriptive society in the United States organized to prevent Roman Catholics from gaining political offices. The organization became an unsettling element on the political scene in most of the northern states during the 1890s but had little influence in the South, aside from a few members in Georgia and Texas.



An attorney and Mason, Maryland native Henry F. Bowers founded the ant-Catholic American Protective Association in 1887.

Henry F. Bowers, a 60-year-old lawyer originally from Maryland, founded the APA in Clinton, Iowa, on March 13, 1887. Bowers, a Mason, drew liberally from the rituals of that fraternal society and developed elaborate regalia, initiation rites, and a secret oath that bound members to endeavor at all times "to place the political position of this government in the hands of Protestants, to the entire exclusion of the Roman Catholic Church, of the members thereof, and the mandate of the Pope." The APA also drew on Protestant paranoia regarding Catholics. Large numbers of Masons, who already excluded Catholics from their fraternal order, joined the movement to keep Catholics from gaining public office.

In 1893 the APA began the active distribution of anti-Catholic literature and arranged public lectures by men posing as ex-priests, who divulged the horrible secrets of the Catholic Church. Some of these imposters claimed to have seen a papal bull that called for the massacre of Protestants on or about the Feast of Saint Ignatius in 1893. By 1894 the APA had seventy weekly tabloids that printed defamatory stories about the Catholic Church. Chief among the reports was the claim that Terence V. Powderly, leader of the Knights of Columbus, was leading that Catholic organization in a massive conspiracy against all American institutions.

Bowers was reelected the national president of the APA in 1898, but the movement had failed to effect any new changes in the laws or policies of government, and it eventually dissipated, leaving only a legacy of distrust between Catholics and those Protestants susceptible to rumors of Catholic conspiracies.

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ANARCHISTS

Whether they are feared, admired, or misunderstood, there are always those individuals who oppose forms of government that they consider tyrannical, oppressive, and unjust.

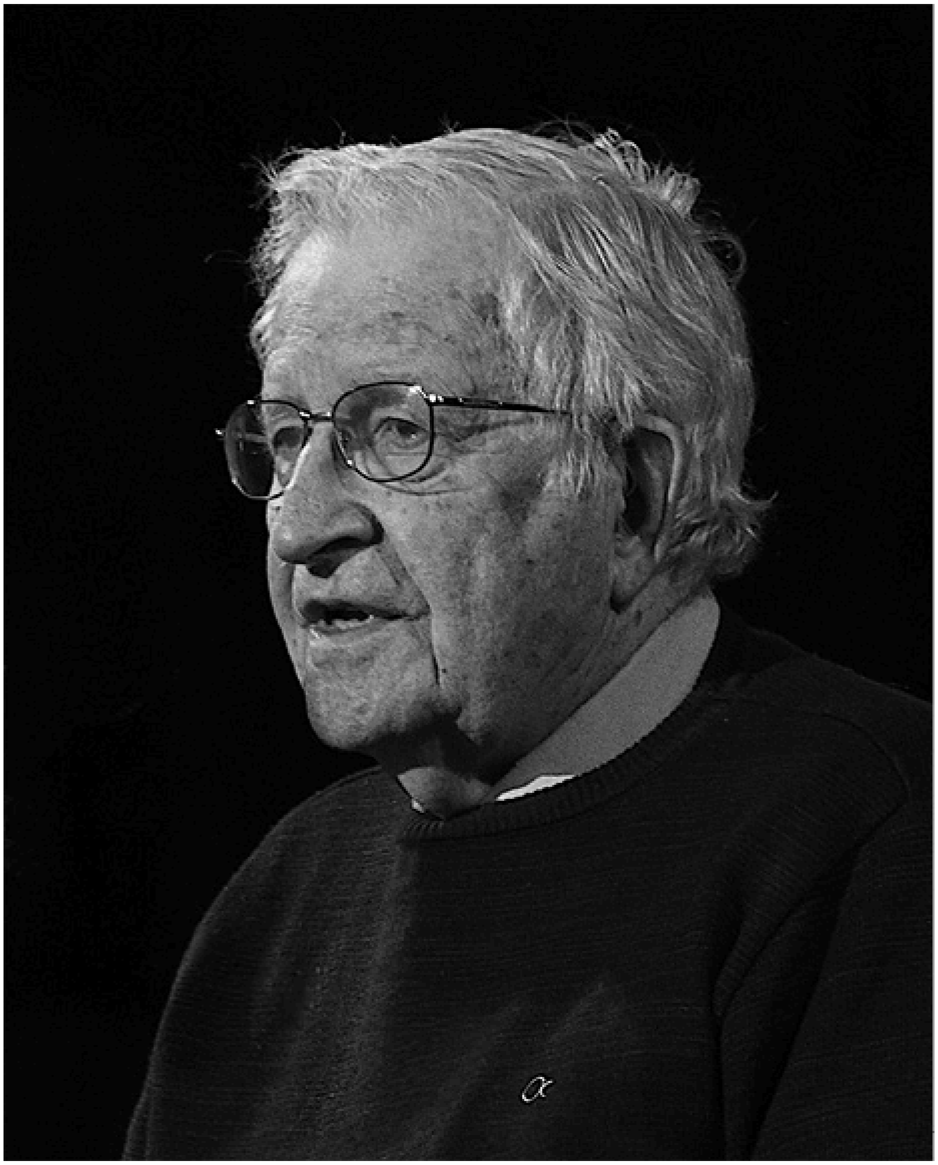
Depending upon the historical period in which they conducted their protests, certain individuals have been called anarchists, libertarians, socialists, Marxists, syndicalists, and revolutionaries. Regardless of labeling, these men and women have opposed through pacifism, militancy, or civil disobedience actions of the government that they considered to be tyrannical, oppressive, and socially, politically, or economically unjust. Here some of the individuals who have been called "anarchists" and a summary of their beliefs:

Mikhail Bakunin: When Bakunin, son of a landowner and military officer, left his unit in the Russian Army in 1835, he set himself on a trajectory of anti-authoritarianism that would inspire people for centuries. He studied philosophers, consorted with socialists, published pamphlets on the cause of social revolution, called for the abolition of privilege, and broke with Karl Marx by preaching a creed of collectivist anarchism where workers controlled the means of production. He actively supported the wave of revolt that swept over Europe in 1848 and the 1871 Paris Commune uprising, started numerous semi-secret socialist and/or revolutionary anarchist groups across Europe.

Noam Chomsky: "If we don't believe in freedom of expression for people we despise," Noam Chomsky has said, "we don't believe in it at all." Chomsky, a renowned linguistic expert who posits that the acquisition of language is part of the innate structure of the human brain, became well known to the nonacademic public as an anarchist and libertarian socialist who vehemently opposed the Vietnam War. Ever vigilant against any abuses of power, Chomsky remains a perceptive critic of U.S. foreign policy.

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn: Born in New Hampshire to an Irish family passionate about union, socialist, and anticolonial struggles, Elizabeth would become one of the greatest twentieth-century labor speakers and organizers. The inspiration for Joe Hill's union song "The Rebel Girl," Flynn stirred countless thousands of workers with her feisty spirit. In

1920 she helped found the American Civil Liberties Union. During the anti-Communist witch hunts of the 1950s, Flynn served twenty-eight months in prison because of her membership in the Communist Party. Her published works include *Sabotage* and *My Life as a Political Prisoner*.



Better known as an influential linguist, American Noam Chomsky is also a philosopher and social critic who opposed the Vietnam War.

William Godwin: Godwin, an English political philosopher and Calvinist minister, was the first writer to espouse anarchist ideals. Godwin's utopia was equalitarian and completely anarchistic. In his opinion, a sound education and proper social conditioning were the chief elements in forming good character. Godwin's Enquiry Concerning Political Justice argues that humans are capable of genuine benevolence. The French Revolution inspired his major work, Political Justice, completed in 1793. His novel Caleb Williams has a theme of social reform.

Emma Goldman: As a young girl in Kovno, Russia, Emma Goldman witnessed the savage beating of a peasant by his master, a cruel memory that never left her and inspired her to become a social activist. In 1886 she came to the United States. She settled in Rochester, New York, experienced an unhappy marriage that ended in divorce, and relocated to New York City, where she became involved with anarchist circles. Emma, a gifted orator, also championed women's rights and, along with the pioneering Margaret Sanger, fought for freer access to birth-control methods. Her efforts on behalf of the anarchist movement caused her to be deported to Russia. Eventually she made her way back to America after spending a number of years in England, Canada, and Spain. Always agitating for her ideals, Emma was often imprisoned. Among her published works are *Anarchism and Other Essays* and *The Social Significance of the Modern Drama*.

Big Bill Haywood: William Dudley Haywood, known as "Big Bill," led the Western Federation of Miners from 1900 to 1905 and in 1905 helped found the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), which sought to organize all laborers into one big union. In 1906 Haywood and other alleged conspirators were brought to trial for the murder of a former governor of Idaho. The famous trial lawyer Clarence Darrow was able to win their acquittal. In 1918 Big Bill and 165 other IWW leaders were convicted of sedition for opposing the U.S. involvement in World War I. In 1921 he jumped bail and sought refuge in the USSR, where he lived until his death.

Joe Hill: Born Joel Hagglund in Sweden, Hill became an American labor organizer for the radical Industrial Workers of the World and a famous writer of union songs, such as "Casey Jones—The Union Scab," a parody of the popular ballad about the legendary train engineer. Charged, upon cloudy evidence, with murder in Salt Lake City, Hill was convicted and sentenced to death. Attempts by President Woodrow Wilson, the government of Sweden, and many prominent Americans could not win him a new trial. On the eve of his execution Hill telegraphed Big Bill Haywood the words that would later be immortalized in labor lore: "Don't mourn, organize." The next morning Joe Hill became a martyr for American labor upon his execution by a Utah firing squad.

Mother Jones: After losing her husband and children to an epidemic, Mary Harris Jones, later known as Mother Jones, found an outlet for her love and compassion in the labor movement. Working with the steelworkers and the miners of West Virginia and Colorado, she became a picturesque and forceful figure—a born crusader and a powerful speaker. Her work on behalf of child textile-mill workers was instrumental in reforming the child labor laws. "Mother Jones" died in 1930, the progressive magazine named in her honor was founded 46 years later.

Lucy Parsons: Lucy Parsons was an enslaved Texan woman who claimed to be the daughter of a Mexican woman and a Creek Indian. After she married Albert Parsons, a Confederate Civil War veteran, in 1873, the couple moved to Chicago and became involved in the labor movement. Lucy also became a tireless champion for the rights of African Americans, maintaining they were primarily victimized due to poverty. Racism, she argued, would disappear with the destruction of capitalism. In 1886 Albert was implicated in the Haymarket Square bombing where several police officers were killed and sentenced to death by hanging. In 1892 Lucy published a short-lived journal called *Freedom*. She helped found the International Working People's Association (IWPA), and in 1905 she participated in the founding of the Industrial Workers of the World. In 1939, fearing that anarchism could not effectively combat the advance of capitalism and fascism throughout the world, she joined the Communist Party.

Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti: Sacco and Vanzetti are joined forever in the public mind as the principals in one of the most controversial and best-known cases in American jurisprudence. They were arrested on charges of murdering a shoe factory paymaster and guard at South Braintree, Massachusetts. Tried and convicted on July 14, 1921, in a time of antiradical fervor, they were sentenced to death. During the years of their imprisonment, worldwide protests were raised by those who doubted their guilt, but they were electrocuted August 23, 1927. Periodically pressure is brought to have the state of Massachusetts officially clear Sacco and Vanzetti of the charges against them, but this has not happened.

Max Stirner: A German social philosopher, Stirner is the spiritual forefather of individualistic anarchism. Stirner rejected all political and moral ties of the individual, emphasizing that the individual entity comprises the overriding reality. In his opinion, egotism determines everything. Stirner's concept of individualistic egotism was very democratic, and in *The Ego and Its Own* he encouraged everyone to become a liberated individualist.

Henry David Thoreau: Thoreau wrote the influential "Civil Disobedience" as a lecture 1848. Its call for standing up to frequently anti-democratic institutions ("Let your life be a counter-friction to stop the machine") inspired Leo Tolstoy and Mahatma Gandhi, as well contemporary activists in the civil rights, antiwar, and radical environmentalist movement.

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ANONYMOUS

Is this network of "hacktivists" aiming to champion the cause of justice or undermine modern society?

The first time most people heard of Anonymous was likely in early 2008. That January, a YouTube video featuring a backdrop of stormy skies and a flat, robotic voice identifying as "We are Anonymous" accused the Church of Scientology of providing "campaigns of misinformation" and "malign influence." The video matter-of-factly declared that they had "decided that your organization should be destroyed." It concluded with a recitation of what was essentially the Anonymous creed: "Knowledge is free. We are Anonymous. We are Legion. We do not forgive. We do not forget. Expect us." While as with most hacker-led campaigns, an element of tongue-in-cheek humor was included, real-world results in addition to the expected online assaults on Scientology's websites also occurred. Thousands protested outside Scientology centers around the world, most of them protecting their identities by wearing the grinning Guy Fawkes mask popularized in the graphic novel and movie *V for Vendetta*.

Anonymous started around 2004. Building on the prankster antiauthoritarian ethos of earlier "hacktivist" collectives like Cult of the Dead Cow and merging it with the boundary-pushing shock humor proliferating on websites like 4chan, Anonymous was credited with campaigns like one in which hackers helped entrap a suspected pedophile. After 2008, Anonymous took on a wide range of causes—from aiding antidemocracy activists during the

Arab Spring to attacking critics of Wikileaks (before later turning on Wikileaks) and harassing a neo-Nazi radio host—with relatively little ideological linkage outside of a generally left-wing and somewhat libertarian ethos. Typical Anonymous campaigns involved denial-of-service attacks on websites and dumping previously secret information online.

Anonymous is a group of computer hacktivists who have become distinguished by their habit of releasing online videos while wearing the mask of Guy Fawkes reminiscent of the film V for Vendetta. *In 2022, they took credit for attacking Russian media systems during that country's attack on Ukraine.*

FBI arrests of numerous members in 2012 fractured the sprawling collective, and in 2020, one of its key founders was identified as Canadian hacker Aubrey Cottle. Every so often, hacker vigilantes claiming Anonymous affiliation and using their now infamous refrain ("We are Legion. We do not forgive. We do not forget. Expect us") will make claims of responsibility for online attacks on individuals or groups that are, for obvious reasons, difficult to prove.

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ANTICHRIST

For many Christians, the greatest conspiracy of all will be the one that the antichrist conducts against the followers of the returning Christ.

Although commonly associated with the apocalyptic New Testament book of Revelation, the word antichrist is nowhere to be found within that text. In 1 John 2:18 the epistle writer declares that the “enemy of Christ” has manifested and that many false teachers have infiltrated the Christian ranks. In verse 22, John names as the antichrist anyone who would deny Jesus as the Christ and the Father and the Son, and in 2 John 7 he declares there are many deceivers already at work among the faithful.

The association of the number 666 with the antichrist is derived from Revelation 13:18, which states that the number of the Beast is 666 and that this number stands for a person.

In Matthew 24:3–44 Jesus speaks to his disciples at great length concerning false messiahs and prophets who will deceive many people with rumors about the end of the world. He refers to the prophet Daniel and his warnings concerning the End-Times, and he admonishes the disciples not to follow false teachers who will produce great miracles and signs to trick God’s chosen ones. No one knows when the Son of Man shall appear again coming on the clouds of heaven, Jesus tells them, not even the angels.

The earliest form of the antichrist is probably the warrior king Gog, who appears in the book of Ezekiel and reappears in Revelation along with his kingdom of Magog, representing those earthly minions of Satan who will attack the people of God in a final great battle of good versus evil. Jewish writings about the “end of days” state that the armies of Gog and Magog will eventually be defeated, and the world will finally be at peace.

Throughout the Bible the antichrist bears many titles: Son of Perdition, Man of Sin, Man of Lawlessness, Prince of Destruction, and Beast. In the prophecies of both Daniel and John the Revelator, the evil king, the antichrist, is associated with ten rulers who give their power and allegiance to him in order to form a short-lived empire of bloodshed and destruction.

Although Jesus makes it clear no one will know the hour or day of his Second Coming, Christian scholars have steadfastly viewed the rise of the antichrist to earthly power as a kind of catalyst that will set in motion Armageddon, the final battle between good and evil, the ultimate clash between the armies of Jesus Christ and Satan. Throughout the centuries, Christians have attempted to determine the antichrist from among the powerful and ruthless leaders of their day, such men as Nero, Napoleon, Hitler, Mussolini, and Stalin. Nominations for the role have often been influenced by politics or religious prejudices: ever since the Protestant Reformation, the pope has been a favorite of evangelicals for the ignominious title.

The association of the number 666 with the antichrist is derived from Revelation 13:18, which states that the number of the Beast is 666 and that this number stands for a person. In John the Revelator’s world of the first century, the Beast who ruled the earth would have been the emperor, the Caesar, of the Roman Empire, Nero. Using the Hebrew alphabet, the numerical value of “Caesar Nero,” the merciless persecutor of the early Christians, works out to 666.

On May 1, 2005, scholars revealed that a newly discovered fragment of the oldest surviving copy of the New Testament, dating from the third century, indicates that later copyists got it wrong: the number of the Beast is 616. David Parker, professor of New Testament textual criticism and paleography at the University of Birmingham, England, says that the numerical value of 616 refers to another nemesis of the early Christians, the emperor Caligula.

However, those who maintain that the number 666 is still a potent predictor of the antichrist will continue to name their contemporary candidates for the role. The numerical value of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's name reportedly added up to 666, and since he held the office of president of the United States for twelve years—and during the Great Depression and World War II—many of his conservative Christian critics began thinking of him as the antichrist. Even Ronald Reagan, who enjoyed significant support from right-wing Christians, had certain dissenters calling attention to the fact that he had six letters in each of his three names: 666.

In recent decades, the term antichrist has been applied to so many individuals in popular culture that it has lost much of its meaning and sense of menace. However, those fundamentalist Christians who believe strongly in the coming time of the Tribulation, the Apocalypse, the Rapture, and the great final battle of good versus evil at Armageddon firmly believe that the title of antichrist maintains its fear factor and that we must pay serious heed to those signs and warnings of the Beast as prophesied in the book of Revelation.

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ANTIFA

Although this network says they are organized around fighting fascists, others see a cabal of subversive agents intent on undermining the United States.

When fascism was on the march in Europe during the 1920s and 1930s, its growth did not go unnoticed by those who opposed the authoritarian, nationalist, and racist ideologies. Because the danger represented by fascism was seen as so extreme, loose confederations of not always aligned groups on the left of the political spectrum—from socialists to trade unionists, anarchists, and Communists—began banding together to shut down fascists whenever they gathered for speeches or marches. The result was often pitched street fighting fueled by the passions of diametrically opposed viewpoints, neither of which was interested in giving any quarter.

One of the first antifascist groups began in Italy in the early 1920s. They were known as *Arditi del Popolo* ("The People's Daring Ones"). In 1936, when Oswald Mosley and his fascist Blackshirts marched through London's heavily Jewish East End neighborhood, antifascists turned out to fight them in a riot that was later called the Battle of Cable Street. In Germany, antifascists organized under the name *Antifaschistische Aktion*, also referred to as "Antifa." These groups, for the most part, did not outlast World War II due both to the military defeat of fascist regimes and the splintering of leftist alliances due to new lines being drawn by the Cold War.

Starting in the 1980s, antifa groups like Anti-Racist Action sprang up in Europe and America to fight neo-Nazis, racist skinheads, and other fringe xenophobes. Unlike prewar antifascists, newer antifa groups were not part of larger mass movements but tended to be smaller, disconnected cells of activists who believed that mainstream leftists were too passive and that neo-Nazi rhetoric and violence needed a harsher response. Excepting some larger clashes like the thousands of antifascists who blocked an annual Nazi march in Dresden in 2010, the antifa–fascist conflicts were often small street skirmishes that took place out of the media spotlight.

That changed in 2017 when a more sizable coalition of antifa, anarchists, and other leftist protestors massed in Charlottesville, North Carolina, to push back against the neo-Nazi "Unite the Right" rally. As White supremacist and authoritarian groups like the Proud Boys grew in numbers, boldness, and visibility during the Donald Trump presidency, increasingly groups like Portland, Oregon's Rose City Antifa turned out to fight them.

During the protests that spread across America after the 2020 killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, antifa groups took part in fierce clashes not just with the pro-Trump far right but with law enforcement (who they saw as protecting or turning a blind eye to groups they deemed fascist). From that point on, and especially after some protests were marked by the looting and burning of buildings, rumors flew on social media throughout the summer of 2020 about vague threats posed by groups of antifa supposedly massing around the country by the thousands to assault suburban neighborhoods and small towns.

In June 2020, a family on a camping trip in a rural part of Washington state was harassed by armed men who believed they were antifa. Attempts were made to have antifa designated as a terror network. Trump and some of his supporters believed that planeloads of black-uniformed antifa were flying around the country to wreak havoc. George Soros was accused of funding antifa despite his organization's denial. Wildfires that hit Oregon in September 2020 were blamed on antifa, who some believed were attempting to sow chaos by any means necessary. The theories continued into the following year. Following the January 6, 2021, assault on the Capitol by pro-Trump rioters, a theory spread through right-wing circles that, in fact, the rioters were antifa looking to shift blame.

WE ARE ALL
ANTI-FASCIST!
Oppose Tommy Robinson Don't let the racists divide us
Oppose Tommy Robinson Don't let the racists divide us

An Antifa march in Cambridge, England, has many participants in 2018. It sounds like a worthy movement, but some suspect Antifa has some subversive motives, too.

Although many antifascists tried to fight the image of their movement as being destructive anarchists, the loose and decentralized nature of their networks likely made it easier for theories to quickly spread.

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APOCALYPTIC MILLENNIALISM

The End-Times are coming. Beware of false messiahs, ranting prophets, and the antichrist—and prepare to be taken aloft by the Rapture.

To some Christians, the profound meaning of the New Testament is that Jesus Christ will return in the Last Days and prompt the resurrection of the dead and the Final Judgment. The heart of the gospels is eschatological, end-oriented. The essential theme of Jesus's teaching is that the last stage of history, the End-Time, was being entered into with his appearance on Earth. In Matthew 24:3–44, Jesus speaks to his disciples at great length concerning false messiahs and prophets who will deceive many people with their rumors about the end of the world. He refers to the prophet Daniel and his warnings concerning the End-Times and the antichrist, and he admonishes the disciples not to chase after false teachers who will produce great miracles and signs to trick God's chosen ones.

No one knows when the Son of Man shall appear again coming on the clouds of heaven, Jesus tells them, not even the angels. However, the prophets of apocalypticism believe that they have received visions that allow them to see ahead to the End-Time and predict when Christ will return.

Among the most famous of the End-Times prophets was William Miller, who founded the Millerite movement about 1831. Miller believed that he had discovered the exact date of Christ's return by calculating two thousand years from 457 B.C.E., when Ezra was allowed to return to Jerusalem to reestablish the Temple. Based on his studies, Miller concluded that the Second Coming would transpire in 1843, although he later revised this prediction to include the period between March 21, 1843, and March 21, 1844. When the latter date embarrassingly passed without notable event, he refined his calculations and finally settled on October 22, 1844, as the day that Jesus would return in all his glory. The Millerites, who numbered at least fifty thousand, were dealt the "Great Disappointment" when Christ failed to arrive on that date either. Then one of Miller's followers, Hiram Edson, had a vision revealing that the divinely inspired date had not been incorrect, merely misinterpreted. What Miller had seen, according to Edson, was the date when Jesus would begin to cleanse the heavenly sanctuary in preparation for the gathering of his earthly followers.

Another follower, Ellen G. White, author of *The Desire of Ages* and *The Great Controversy*, had visions which told the Adventists, as some of the Millerites were now calling themselves, that they were God's special End-Times remnant. She also concluded that they should begin to keep the original Sabbath, Saturday, as their day of worship. The Millerite apocalyptic revelations had evolved into the Seventh-day Adventists. Later, the Branch Davidian Seventh-day Adventists, seeking to reform the church, broke away and formed their own interpretation of Millerite doctrine.

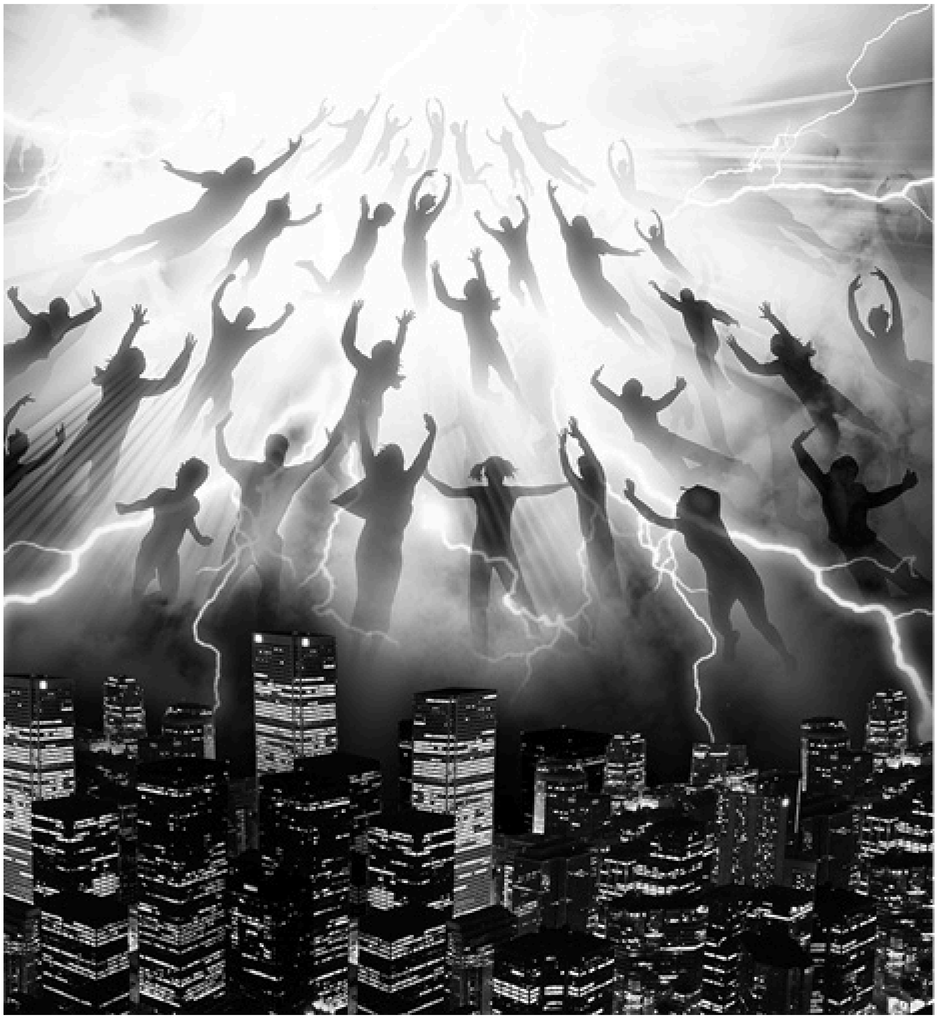
In the Jewish tradition, apocalyptic thought presupposes a universal history in which the Divine Author of that history will reveal and manifest his secrets in a dramatic End-Time that with finality will establish the God of Israel as the one true God. The "end of days" (*acharit ha-yamin*) is bound up with the coming of the Messiah, but before his appearance governments will become increasingly corrupt, religious schools will become heretical, the wisdom of the scribes and teachers will become blasphemous, young people will shame their elders, and members of families will turn upon one another. Then, just prior to the arrival of the Messiah, the righteous of Israel will defeat the armies of evil that have gathered under the banner of Gog and Magog, and the exiles will return to the Holy Land. The world will be at peace and all people will recognize the one true God. With the advent of the Messiah there will come the great Day of Judgment in which the dead shall rise from their graves to begin a new life. During the period known as the World to Come (Olam Haba), the righteous will join the Messiah in partaking of a great banquet in which all foods, even those previously judged impure, will be declared kosher. All the many nations of the world will communicate in one language; the Angel of Death will be slain by God; trees and crops will produce fresh harvests each month; the warmth of the sun will heal the sick; and the righteous will be nourished forever by the radiance of God.

According to ancient Jewish teachings, only the ashes of a flawless red heifer could purify worshippers who went into the Temple in Jerusalem. The First Temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C.E. and the Romans demolished the Second Temple in 70 C.E. Without a flawless red heifer to sacrifice to purify the Temple Mount, the Third Temple could not be built and the Messiah could not come. In modern times, some rabbits have forbidden Jews from setting foot on the Temple Mount.

Fundamentalist Christians believe that after Jesus Christ has returned and defeated the forces of evil at the great battle of Armageddon, he will begin his millennial reign from the Third Temple. Muslims revere the Temple Mount as the place where Muhammad ascended into heaven; and in 685, followers of the Prophet began constructing the thirty-five-acre site known as the Noble Sanctuary, which today includes the Dome of the Rock and the al-Aqsa Mosque. Muslims believe that Jesus will return as a Muslim prophet and conduct the day of final judgment in the valley just below the Noble Sanctuary.

A large number of Christians who believe in the End-Times also envision an event they call the "Rapture," in which born-again Christians will be taken up into the air to meet Christ. Many believe that the Rapture will happen unexpectedly. Those Christians of special merit will be lifted suddenly from their homes, their automobiles, even from their passenger seats on airliners. Most of humankind will be left behind, including those Christians whose faith requires strengthening. To fundamentalist Christians, the Rapture will be a literal, physical occurrence, rather than a spiritual transformation. Those who are taken up by Christ may leave their clothing on the streets and their cars crashing into trees, but they will be lifted body and soul into the sky.

Although Christians who believe in the Rapture are certain that it will occur in association with the time of Tribulation (the seven-year period of disasters, famine, and illness during which the antichrist will be in power), opinions differ as to whether it will come about just before the Tribulation begins, midway through the seven-year reign of the antichrist, or at the very end of the Tribulation. There is, however, general agreement that when this awful time of lawlessness and corruption has passed, Christ will return to Earth with his army of angels and destroy the forces of darkness at Armageddon in the final battle of good versus evil. Babylon, the False Prophet, and the Beast (the antichrist) will be dispatched to their doom, and Satan, the Dragon, will be bound in a pit for a thousand years. With Satan imprisoned and chained, the Millennium, the thousand years of peace and harmony, will begin.



Belief in the Rapture is a fairly recent development in Christian—especially Evangelical—theology. It asserts that the faithful will rise into Heaven and avoid the horrors of the End Times.

Not all Christians accept the scenario of the Rapture, but many Christians and non-Christians alike find the premise intriguing and read the books in the Rapture-inspired *Left Behind* series as exciting science fiction. Authored by fundamentalist minister Tim LaHaye and professional writer Jerry Jenkins, the sixteen books in the series, based on the events of the Rapture, sold tens of millions of copies and also inspired movies and computer games. They also contain a significant amount of violent anti-Semitism and link modern apocalyptic Christianity with conspiracy theories that propagated in the late 20th century, particularly about the United Nations as a false front for an anti-Christian One World Government.

From 1958 until his retirement in 2011, Christian broadcaster Harold Egbert Camping was president of Family Radio, a California-based radio group that broadcasts to 150 markets in the United States. Camping sometimes applied numerology to his interpretation of Bible passages that he believed predicted the End-Times. In 1988, Camping prophesied that the end of the world would occur on May 21 of that year. Undaunted by the sunrise on May 22, Camping went back to the Bible and his numerological computations, waiting until 1994 to make another doomsday prophecy that the world would end on September 6 of that year.

Somewhat chastened by another miscalculation, Camping was content to remain a fiery Christian broadcaster until his Bible interpretations moved him to receive another prediction for 2011. This time, he worked in some elements of the Rapture that were popular with certain evangelicals. On May 21, 2011, he predicted, Christ would return to Earth, elevating the righteous to Heaven. For all others, there would follow five months of terrible plagues on Earth, killing millions of people each day.

His predictions for 1988 and 1994 had come and gone without gathering too much notice, but Family Radio was more media savvy by 2011, and they launched a massive publicity campaign that brought international attention to Camping's prophetic utterances. Major media outlets carried stories that announced the approaching Judgment Day to believers and skeptics alike.

When May 21 left thousands of true believers disillusioned and even more unbelievers amused, Camping defended his power of prophecy by proclaiming his revelation that a great spiritual judgment did occur on that date and that the great physical Rapture would happen on October 21. But the responsibility of serving as an apocalyptic spokesperson proved too much for Camping and he suffered a stroke in June. On October 16, 2011, he retired from his presidency of Family Radio. When October 21 once again came and went without people rising to Heaven and the physical universe being destroyed, Camping conceded in a private interview that he guessed no one could know the actual time that the world would come to an end.

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AREA 51

The debris from the UFO crash site at Roswell was taken to a secret base and used in reverse engineering and the building of highly advanced technological aircraft.

In 1989 a physicist named Bob Lazar claimed that he worked at a secret base outside of Las Vegas, Nevada, where he had witnessed the reverse engineering of alien spacecraft and the testing of extremely advanced aircraft. The government officially denied the existence of the secret base, known as Area 51. But UFO investigators had long suspected that the installation, near Groom Dry Lake, was the site where a UFO that allegedly crashed near Roswell, New Mexico, in July 1947 was reverse engineered to create such aircraft as the stealth bomber. For many years UFO buffs hid in the rugged terrain near the base and watched the night sky for the mysterious lights that they knew were engineered from an alien spacecraft.

The Groom Lake base, officially designated as the "Nellis Air Force Bombing and Gunnery Range" and located on the federally protected territory in Nye, Lincoln, and Clark Counties, covers an area equal to Rhode Island and Connecticut. It is in grid number 51 of the Nevada Test Site, thus, Area 51.

The base has not really been secret since the March 1993 issue of *Popular Science* revealed that the Mach-6 spy plane "Aurora" was developed at the closely guarded air force facility at Groom Lake. Built in 1954 as a place to test the secret U-2 spy plane that flew reconnaissance missions over the Soviet Union, the base was later redesigned to accommodate the A-12 and SR-71 manned spy aircraft and the D-21 spy drone.

NELLIS BOMBING AND GUNNERY RANGE
RESTRICTED AREA
NO TRESPASSING
BEYOND THIS POINT
PHOTOGRAPHY IS PROHIBITED
WARNING
Restricted Area

A road sign in Groom Lake, Nevada, just outside Area 51 warns travelers they are near a restricted area.

In his controversial book *The Day after Roswell*, Col. Philip J. Corso (U.S. Army, retired) claims that he was given "personal stewardship" of various extraterrestrial artifacts recovered from the crashed Roswell spacecraft of 1947. Corso states that he distributed the objects of alien technology to select government contractors and that despite official denials, the U.S. government has employed large numbers of scientists in secretly and ambitiously achieving reverse engineering from advanced alien technology. Among the results are fiber optics, light amplification devices, Kevlar (lightweight, heavily resistant material used in, among other things, body armor), and a large number of advances in laser weaponry.

Corso was on Gen. Douglas MacArthur's intelligence staff following the Korean War, and he was later assigned to President Dwight Eisenhower's Security Council, then to the Army Research and Development Department's Foreign Technology Desk at the Pentagon. According to Corso, when he moved into the Foreign Technology Division, he was given a file cabinet of artifacts from the Roswell crash and instructed to begin working on a plan of action and recommendations for their use. His superiors were enthusiastic about the artifacts' possible utility in building spaceships that would be impervious to radiation, cosmic activity, or gunfire.

One of Corso's first file-cabinet discoveries was a paper-thin piece of metal about the size of a postcard. Somehow the metal's atoms were aligned in such a way that government scientists all failed to reverse engineer it. Next, according to Corso, the scientists moved on to an integrated circuit, the size of a microchip, that gave rise to the transistor.

Corso said in a government program called "Applied Engineering," he and his staff looked for people working in a particular area of scientific research and would then supplement these research-and-development efforts by introducing some of the alien technology. In some instances, the government agency would even fund the work.

Although Corso's claims remain controversial, they continue to keep alive the accusations that the government has hidden the truth about the alleged alien crash at Roswell from the public.

As the level of public speculation about Area 51 has risen and fallen, it has become something of a pop culture cliché. In 2019, following a Bob Lazar-inspired viral social media joke supposedly seeking people to "Storm Area 51, They Can't Stop All of Us," a small number of enthusiasts actually showed up not far from the base. It was not ultimately stormed, leaving the massive military installation secret.

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ARK OF THE COVENANT

The Ark of the Covenant that was given by God to the ancient Israelites contained great supernatural power that could annihilate entire armies and whole cities. Lost for centuries, the Ark, if found, could be used by its discoverer to conquer the earth.

As described in the Old Testament, the Ark of the Covenant served as the physical sign of God's presence to the Israelites. The design of the Ark was expressed by God and was then made into a material object by skilled craftsmen. They built a chest about three feet nine inches in length and two feet three inches in height, using acacia wood overlaid with the purest gold. The outside of the Ark had a gold rim and four golden rings, one on each corner. Two poles made of acacia and covered with gold ran through the gold rings on either side; the poles were used to lift the Ark and were never removed from the rings. The Ark had a cover of gold on which two cherubim faced each other, each with wings spread.

The Ark is believed to contain numerous sacred relics, including the tablets of stone bearing the Ten Commandments that Moses brought back from Mount Sinai; Aaron's rod, a kind of rounded stick that miraculously grew leaves as a sign of God's trust in Aaron, brother of Moses; a specimen of manna, the mysterious food that had provided nourishment to the Israelites as they wandered in the desert. Additionally, the Ark possessed a supernatural power that awed and overwhelmed those who viewed it, and it served also as a means through which God communicated with the Israelites. The book of Genesis states that the commands of God would issue from a cloud between the Ark's two cherubim. Some researchers have suggested that the "god" of the Ark was really a benevolent extraterrestrial, who imparted both a communications device and a weapon before leaving in a fiery blast in a spaceship.

The Ark provided safe passage to the Israelites in their journey to the Promised Land. Its power was manifested several times when Israelite warriors brought it to sites of battle and used its influence to destroy and scatter the enemies of God and Israel. At the famous battle of Jericho, the Ark was carried by a procession around the walls of the city for seven days, after which the walls came crashing down and the Israelites won the battle.

After losing a series of battles with the Philistines, the Israelites brought the Ark to a battle site, hoping to strike fear into the enemy. However, the Philistines won the battle and captured the Ark. The Philistines viewed their seizing of the Ark as a victory over the Israelites and their God—but several disasters fell upon them, including the rapid spread of a plague and an invasion of mice wherever the Ark was placed. The fear-stricken Philistines ultimately returned the Ark to the Israelites.

When David became king of Israel and established Jerusalem as the holy center of the nation, he ordered the Ark to be moved there. The Ark was then housed at a nearby site outside the city, where it was the object of veneration for several months before the journey to Jerusalem was completed. David took the Ark from Jerusalem only once—to inspire his army in its battle against the forces of his son, Absalom.

The Ark was later placed in the grand new Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem and only occasionally removed from the temple for battle. When Jerusalem was invaded and taken by the Babylonians led by King Nebuchadnezzar II, the whereabouts of the Ark became a mystery and remain so to this day. Perhaps it was destroyed along with the city or, as suggested in Kings 4:25, taken to Babylon as one of the spoils of victory. Some biblical scholars theorize that those Israelites still faithful to God were forewarned about the fall of Jerusalem and moved the Ark to safety. Jeremiah is said to have hidden it in a cave on Mount Sinai, the mountain in Egypt where Moses first spoke with God. The Talmud, the ancient authoritative history of the Hebrews, indicates that the Ark was kept in a secret area of the Temple of Solomon and survived the destruction and pillaging of Jerusalem. The temple was rebuilt on its original foundation after the Babylonian captivity of the defeated Jews.

Based on the description from the Bible, this model approximates what the Ark of the Covenant may have looked like.

According to one account, the illegitimate son of Solomon and Sheba stole the Ark about 1000 B.C.E. and hid it in Aksum, Ethiopia, where it was guarded by a monk. Other stories have the Ark being transported during a Hebrew migration to Abyssinia (Ethiopia) that preceded the Babylonian captivity. There, according to this version of the story, the Ark remained on an island in Lake Tana. With the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman world by 300 C.E., Abyssinia became largely Christian. Later, during the sixteenth century, fierce battles with invading Muslim armies caused much destruction in Abyssinia, including the razing of monasteries on Tana Kirkos, the island where the Ark was believed to have been kept. A cathedral was built after the Muslim armies retreated, and there, according to popular legend, the Ark remains safe.

Interest in the Ark of the Covenant has recurred through the centuries. In medieval times the Knights Templar supposedly came into possession of the Ark. Some have theorized that Bernard of Clairvaux, founder of the Cistercian monastic order and mentor of the secret order of Knights Templar, may have been involved in building the magnificent Gothic cathedral that stands on the hill in the French town of Chartres. The Knights Templar, according to some theories, were sent on a crusade to the Holy Land by Bernard and discovered the remains of the Ark in the ruins of King Solomon’s temple. The knights returned to France with the priceless treasure in 1128, and Cistercian scholars managed to decipher some of the Ark’s secrets regarding the principles of sacred geometry and the law of holy numbers, weights, and measures. Somehow, a Knight Templar or an enlightened scholar was able to employ architectural principles greatly in advance of the time. Those who visit the place today perpetuate the centuries-old claims that Chartres Cathedral has the power to transform individuals and to elevate them to a higher spiritual state.

The Spear of Destiny fell into the hands of U.S. soldiers on April 30, 1945. A few hours after the totemic object passed from Nazi possession, Hitler committed suicide in his Berlin bunker.

The Spear of Destiny, also known as the Holy Lance, is in Christian tradition the spear that the Roman soldier Longinus thrust into the side of Jesus as he hung on the cross. The lance's power, though perhaps not the equal of the Ark's, has been sought with almost equal fervor. Christian knights discovered the Holy Lance at Antioch during the First Crusade in 1098. The very sight of the sacred artifact so inspired the beleaguered Christian soldiers that they rallied and routed the Saracens from the city. From that time forth, according to legend, whoever claims the spear and solves its secret holds the destiny of the world in his hands, for good or evil.

There is an element of truth in Steven Spielberg's *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, in which a Nazi expedition under the directive of Adolf Hitler seeks such holy relics as the Ark, the lance, and the Holy Grail to assure their victory in World War II. According to Trevor Ravenscroft in *The Spear of Destiny*, a nineteen-year-old Hitler was first led to the lance in 1908—and from the moment of his first encounter it became "the central pivot" in his life and the "very source of his ambitions to conquer the world." Hitler found that as many as forty-five emperors, including Constantine, had owned the lance before the great Charlemagne had possessed it. Frederick the Great of Germany, who founded the Teutonic Knights on which Hitler allegedly based his SS, had also owned the Spear of Destiny at one time. Ravenscroft claims that Hitler would often visit the Weltliches Schatzkammer Museum (the Hapsburg Treasure House Museum) in Vienna, stare at the Holy Lance, and enter into a trance state in which he would view his future glory as the Führer, the master of the Third Reich.

Thirty years later, on March 14, 1938, Hitler arrived in Vienna to oversee the annexation of Austria by the Third Reich. The Führer also observed the transfer of the Hapsburg Crown Jewel collection, which included the Holy Lance, from Vienna to Nuremberg, the Nazi's favorite city. With the Spear of Destiny now safely ensconced in Germany, Hitler declared that the war could begin in earnest. The lance would be well protected in the hall of Saint Katherine's Church, where it had once rested for nearly four hundred years.

The Spear of Destiny fell into the hands of U.S. soldiers on April 30, 1945. A few hours after the totemic object passed from Nazi possession, Hitler committed suicide in his Berlin bunker. Today, the Spear of Destiny stands again in the Hapsburg Treasure House Museum in Vienna.

But no one really knows where the Ark of the Covenant resides. Graham Hancock's 1992 *The Sign and the Seal* claims that it remains in Ethiopia. In December 2000 Erling Haagensen and Henry Lincoln published their thesis that the Ark and the Holy Grail were both hidden on the Baltic Sea island of Bornholm about 830 years ago.

In December 2001 Reverend John McLuckie found a wooden tablet representing the Ark of the Covenant in a cupboard in Saint John's Episcopal Church in Edinburgh, Scotland. McLuckie, who had lived in Ethiopia, recognized the artifact as sacred to Ethiopia's Orthodox Christians and arranged to have the tablet returned in a special ceremony in 2002.

Those who revere the Ark and all that it represents pray that the powerful holy relic never falls into the wrong hands.

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ARMY OF GOD

The battle cry of the Army of God, "Death to the New World Order," has become a death sentence for abortion clinics and their staffs.

The Army of God is an extremist religious group first organized about 1962 which has declared war on "the ungodly communist regime in New York" and the "legislative, bureaucratic lackeys in Washington." With the battle cry "Death to the New World Order," the Army of God targets homosexuals, abortion clinics, and all those who "preside over the death of children and issue policies of ungodly perversions that are destroying the American people."

In the early 1980s, while a women's clinic in Granite City, Illinois, was being mobbed by fundamentalist protesters, Dr. Hector Zevallos, the clinic operator, and his wife, Rosalee, were kidnapped by members of the Army of God. After being held for eight days in an abandoned ammunition bunker, the captives were released after Zevallos pledged he would perform no more abortions.

Don Benny Anderson and two other members of the Army of God, Matthew and Wayne Moore, were later convicted of the kidnapping. Anderson's explanation that God had told him to wage war against abortion centers did not work on the judge, who gave him a thirty-year prison term for the kidnapping and an additional thirty years when it was learned that he had torched two Florida abortion clinics.

In 1984 the Army of God took credit for the firebombing of a women's clinic in Norfolk, Virginia, and another outside of Washington, D.C. The year 1984 became the "Year of Fear and Pain" as militant abortion activists torched twenty-five women's clinics throughout the United States. At least seven fire bombings were orchestrated by Rev. Michael Bray of Bowie, Maryland, often referred to as the "chaplain" of the movement. At the site of a Norfolk bombing, Bray left a note giving the Army of God credit for the act.

In the 1980s the Army of God generally took care that no one should be harmed in their bombings of women's clinics, but as the 1990s dawned, Bray began to advocate the murder of abortion doctors as part of a theocratic revolution to bring about biblical laws.

Rachelle "Shelley" Shannon, a.k.a. Shaggy West, an Oregon fundamentalist, prowled the western states launching butyric acid and arson attacks on women's clinics. She proclaimed that she was doing God's will when she shot and seriously wounded Wichita, Kansas, clinic doctor George Tiller in 1993. Investigating police officers found an Army of God manual buried in her backyard. Shannon was released from prison in 2018.

On January 16, 1997, a women's clinic in Atlanta was firebombed. On February 21 a gay nightclub was torched in the same city. After the second bombing, a crude letter was sent to the Reuters news agency, giving the Army of God the credit and warning that any persons involved in abortion would "become victims of retribution" and that "sodomites" would always be one of the group's targets.

On October 23, 1998, James Kopp, a.k.a. Atomic Dog, murdered Dr. Barnett Slepian, a well-known abortion doctor in upstate New York. Hailed by his fellow Army of God members as a holy man who executed a wicked serial killer and saved the lives of innocent children, Kopp confessed to the murder but swore that he did not intend to kill Dr. Slepian. Kopp claimed that he had picked Slepian's name at random from a list of abortion providers and intended only to wound him. Kopp was on the run for more than two years and placed on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives List until he was apprehended in Dinan, France, in March 2001.

Vicki Saporta of the National Abortion Federation has called Michael Bray "one of the most well-known domestic terrorists." Bray went to prison for his participation in the bombings of ten mid-Atlantic abortion clinics in the 1980s and served two years of a six-year sentence after being convicted of conspiracy and explosives charges. Bray is the author of *A Time to Kill: A Study Concerning the Use of Force and Abortion*, an "ethical treatise on the use of force in defense of the child in the womb."

In 1997 a website sponsored by David Leach, whose newsletter *Prayer & Action Weekly News* supports the pro-violence anti-abortion network, serialized *Rescue Platoon*, a futuristic novel that dramatizes the Army of God as emerging victorious after a bloodbath of epic and biblical proportions. That is the same ending that the real-life Army of God envisions.

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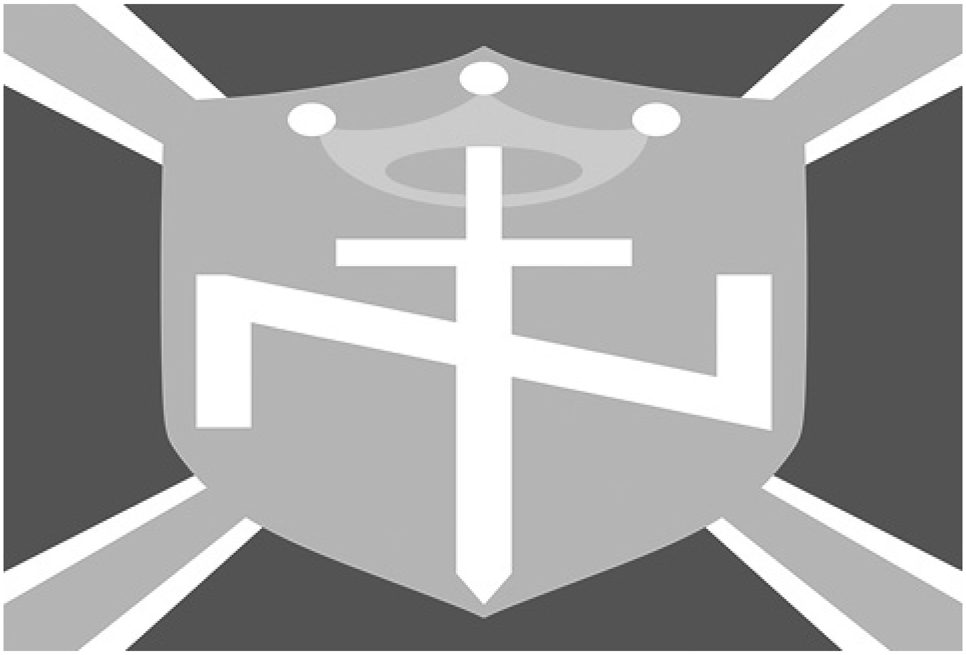
ARYAN NATIONS

The Aryan Nations have issued a declaration of independence from the United States and declared Anglo-Saxons as the true "chosen people."



The emblem used by the Aryan Nations.

Aryan Nations is a paramilitary group founded in the mid-1970s by Rev. Richard Grant Butler and structured around his Church of Jesus Christ Christian, one of numerous churches associated with the Christian Identity movement. Originally headquartered near Hayden Lake, Idaho (the "international headquarters of the White race"), Butler preached the Identity doctrine that Anglo-Saxons, not Jews, are the Bible's true "chosen people"; African Americans are "mud people," more animal than human; and Jews are the offspring of Satan. Although Aryan Nations is primarily a Christian Identity group, Butler's anti-Semitism and his calling for the establishment of a white racist state undeniably reflected a Nazi-like philosophy.

During the 1980s several Aryan Nations members joined followers of the neo-Nazi National Alliance and some Knights of the Ku Klux Klan to form a secret organization called the Silent Brotherhood, also known as the Order, which plotted to overthrow the U.S. government. The Order planned to raise cash to fund the revolution by counterfeiting, robbing banks, and hijacking armored cars. Those drastic methods came to a halt with the death of its founder, Robert J. Matthews, in a shootout with federal agents in December 1984, and the subsequent imprisonment of many of its members.

As Butler's health began to fail, the Aryan Nations Ohio chapter began positioning itself as a possible new headquarters for the group. On February 16, 1997, the Church of Jesus Christ Christian (also New Vienna Church of Christ) in New Vienna, Ohio, and the Klan organized a rally at the state capitol in Columbus to protest Black History Month. In September 1997 Ohio's Aryan Nations leader, Harold Ray Redfaeirn, was sentenced to six months in prison for carrying a concealed weapon.

Carl Franklin, chief of staff for Aryan Nations, whom Richard Butler had named as his successor, left the group in 1993 as a result of disagreements with Butler. Wayne Jones, security chief at the Aryan compound since the late 1980s, departed along with Franklin. Franklin, Jones, and two other members formed their own white-supremacist group called the Church of Jesus Christ Christian of Montana.

In steadily declining health, Butler underwent a crisis in his leadership after the departure of Franklin. In December 1995 Butler's wife's death added to his depression and inability to lead the group.

In August 1999 Aryan Nations member Buford Furrow shot and wounded four children and one adult at a Jewish community center in the Los Angeles suburb of Granada Hills. Furrow then drove to nearby Chatsworth, where he shot and killed a Filipino American postal carrier.

Aryan Nations was forced to sell its compound in Hayden Lake in 2000 after losing a civil suit brought by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Following that, the group's membership was largely dispersed. Butler died on September 8, 2004, and the number of active Aryan Nations chapters fell to fifteen. After the headquarters was relocated to Lincoln, Alabama, and Charles Juba assumed leadership, a splinter group claiming to be the true Aryan Nations and led by August Kreis moved the base to Sebring, Florida in 2005. That same year, Kreis proposed an alliance between neo-Nazis and Islamic radicals. As far as can be determined, his offer was ignored.

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ASIAN TSUNAMI 2004

Conspiracy theorists soon saw everything from a secret military operation to aliens correcting the Earth's rotation as a cause for the tragic tsunami.

Early in the morning of December 26, 2004, a 9.3 earthquake shuddered the ocean floor off northwestern Sumatra, forcing billions of tons of seawater upward. Giant waves rolled toward the beaches of Sumatra, Thailand, and Sri Lanka, cascading downward on thousands of unsuspecting villagers, holiday celebrants, and foreign tourists. The massive tsunami claimed perhaps 300,000 lives and continued its destructive course until it spent the last of its energy on the beaches of Kenya.

Only a few days after the terrible catastrophe occurred, conspiracy theorists around the world were busy debunking the scientists' explanations of a natural disaster. An act of God was out of the question, these individuals argued: this was a deliberate act of cruel men. Among the most prevalent theories were the following:

- The U.S. military had secretly been testing a deadly eco-weapon whose electromagnetic waves caused havoc with the environment and triggered the earthquake that spawned the tsunami.

- One of the superpowers had tested an underwater nuclear device that proved more powerful than anticipated.
- The U.S. military and State Department had received advanced warning of the impending tsunami, but they did nothing to alert the Asian countries.
- The United States set off a weapon with the express purpose of destroying several rival economies in the region and also eliminate some terrorists while they were at it.
- All of the government agencies of the world knew of the coming monster tsunami but did nothing to alert the victims in its path in order to comply with the New World Order's plan to decrease planetary population.
- Benevolent aliens had noticed that the rotation of the earth had become irregular and wobbly and sought to correct its orbit. Scientists in India confirmed that the planet's rotation had become more stabilized after the tsunami.

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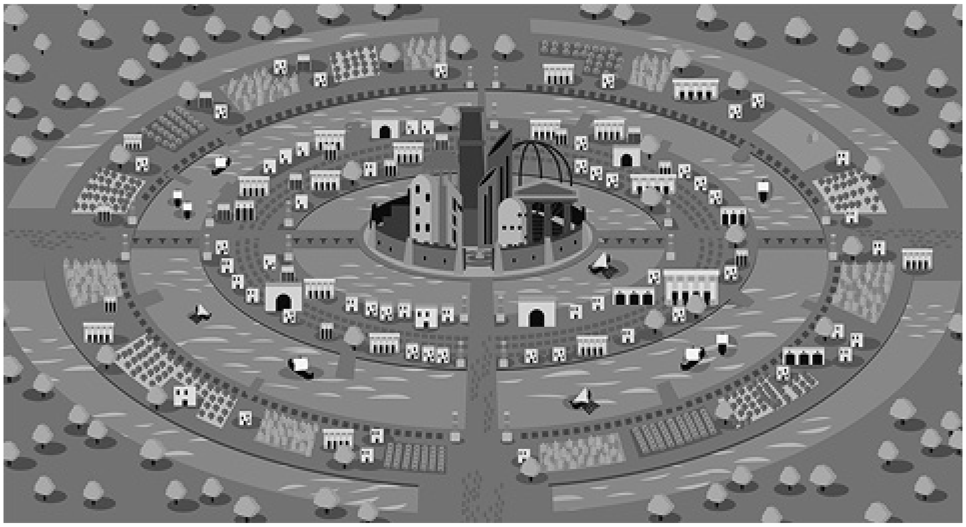
ATLANTIS

Atlantis was a great lost civilization that possessed a technology superior to our own and a Golden Age that has inspired dozens of secret societies and thousands of dreamers, poets, mystics, and maverick archaeologists.

In 1882 Ignatius Donnelly's *Atlantis: The Antediluvian World* argued that all civilization is an inheritance from Atlantis. Listing numerous parallels between ancient cultures spaced far away from each other, Donnelly argued that the traits they held in common resulted from contact with Atlanteans, members of the ancient civilization who escaped destruction during its catastrophic final days and managed to impart their knowledge to other peoples of the world, helping civilize primitive societies, passing on the secret of written language, and supervising construction of some of the world's grandest and most mysterious structures. The pyramids of Egypt and the Americas, the Sphinx in Egypt, and the megaliths of western Europe are among the structures attributed to the genius of the Atlanteans.

In the years since Donnelly published his book, believers have credited the Atlanteans with having had the technology to generate electricity, build flying machines, and harness nuclear power for energy and warfare—all more than nine thousand years before such things came into being in modern society. Some claim the Atlanteans were knowledgeable about a formidable death ray, secrets for levitation, and pure forms of energy through crystals. Many Atlantis enthusiasts firmly believe the inhabitants of the lost continent had cosmic connections with extraterrestrials and may actually have been a colony established on Earth by alien explorers.



According to Plato, the city of Atlantis was surrounded by three concentric circles, or rings, each divided by water.

One of the greatest proponents of Atlantean civilization was Edgar Cayce. A widely admired psychic, Cayce gave "life readings" to clients who believed that he could reveal how many of their psychological traumas resulted from terrible incidents that the individuals had experienced in past lives—in many cases, specifically due to suffering when they lived in Atlantis.

Cayce helped to popularize a modernized view of Atlantis as a superior civilization that developed airplanes, submarines, X-rays, antigravity devices, crystals that harness energy from the sun, and powerful explosives. He theorized that a terrible explosion in 50,000 B.C.E. split Atlantis into five islands; another rupture occurred in 28,000 B.C.E. and a third around 10,000 B.C.E.. Cayce claimed that he himself had been an Atlantean priest around 10,500 B.C.E., had foreseen the coming destruction, and had sent some of his followers to Egypt, where they directed the building of the Sphinx and the Pyramids.

In 1940 Cayce predicted that remnants of Atlantis would rise again near the Bahamas in the late 1960s. In 1967 two pilots photographed a rectangular structure in the ocean off the coast of Andros, the largest island of the Bahamas. Another configuration of stone, in the shape of a "J," was found by divers off the island of Bimini. The J-shaped formation was believed to be a road of stone. Extensive diving expeditions became common in the area, and some divers claimed to have seen remnants of temples, pillars, and pyramids.

Atlantean enthusiasts insist that there is an organized cover-up on the part of the political, religious, and scientific establishments to keep proof of Atlantis from the general population. If the existence of the ancient, advanced civilization was officially acknowledged, they assert, the current hypotheses concerning the history and development of humankind would have to be completely revised. Acceptance of a prehistoric supercivilization would make the current understanding of history obsolete. To find irrefutable evidence of a great worldwide culture that thrived while the rest of humankind was struggling to exist on a primitive level would demolish conventional knowledge of the progress of civilization.

Atlantis was first described in the works of the Greek philosopher Plato, who depicted it as a world of perfect order, a model society. In two of his dialogues, *Timaeus* and *Critias*, Plato describes the island continent and how Atlanteans conquered all the known world except for

Athens. *Critias*, named after the primary speaker in the dialogue, Plato's great-grandfather, presents a history of Atlantean civilization and describes the ideal society that flourished there. Critias notes that the stories were originally passed on by an ancestor, Solon, a politician and poet who traveled widely.

In Plato's account, the people of Atlantis eventually became corrupt and greedy, putting selfish pursuits above the greater good.

Solon was informed by Egyptian priests in the city of Sais, located in the Nile Delta, that there was once a land even older in history than Egypt, which the Greeks acknowledged as being centuries older than their own society. The priests described a large island continent called Atlantis that had prospered some eight thousand years earlier and was located in the Atlantic Ocean beyond the Pillars of Hercules, the Greek term for the rocks that form the Strait of Gibraltar, the westernmost point of the Mediterranean Sea. The primary city, also called Atlantis, was located in the center of a series of concentric rings that alternated between strips of water and land. The water rings served as canals for trade and formed natural defenses that made an invasion of Atlantis extremely difficult.

Although Atlantis had a powerful army of professional soldiers, the culture promoted learning, through which advances in engineering and science made the land bountiful, beautiful, and powerful. In addition to magnificent architectural structures, a network of bridges and tunnels linked the rings of land, and clever uses of natural resources provided security and abundance. Many groves provided solitude and beauty, racetracks were used for athletic competitions, and irrigation systems ensured great harvests.

In Plato's account, the people of Atlantis eventually became corrupt and greedy, putting selfish pursuits above the greater good. They began invading other lands with the idea of world domination. Angered by these developments, the sea god Poseidon set about destroying the civilization, battering the continent with earthquakes and floods until Atlantis was swallowed up by the ocean.

The common description of the destruction of Atlantis has been linked by some to other cataclysmic events—stories of a great deluge in the Bible, the Epic of Gilgamesh and flood myths in other societies. Some contend that the end of the Ice Age between 12,000 and 10,000 B.C.E. likely resulted in rising water levels in various parts of the world and that earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and climate changes, either incidental or associated with the Ice Age, occurred during the time identified with the destruction of Atlantis.

Enthusiasts of the lost continent were tantalized in December 2001 when explorers using a miniature submarine to probe the sea floor off the coast of Cuba announced their discovery of stone structures deep beneath the ocean surface that were suggestive of ruins left by an unknown civilization thousands of years ago. Representatives of the Canadian-based Advanced Digital Communications, together with experts from the Cuban Academy of Sciences, said that the structures, at a depth of around 2,100 feet, were distributed as if remnants of an urban area. Estimates of the age of the ancient city under the sea were somewhere in the vicinity of 6,000 years, about 1,500 years earlier than the great Giza pyramids of Egypt. Whether this intriguing site proves to be Atlantis or evidence of a land bridge that once linked Cuba to mainland South America, it is certain to be controversial.

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AUM SHINRIKYO (SUPREME TRUTH)

Asahara Shoko assisted the realization of his doomsday prophecies by having his followers release sarin nerve gas in Tokyo subway stations.

In 1987 Asahara Shoko (born Chizuo Matsumoto) established Aum Shinrikyo, a cult with several hundred members. He claimed to have received enlightenment while he was alone in the Himalaya Mountains in India in 1986. He was given the holy new name of Asahara Shoko, a new religion to be called Aum (Sanskrit for the powers of destruction and creation) Shinrikyo (teaching of the supreme truth), and a mission to teach the truth about the creation and destruction of the universe. In addition, the good deeds of Aum would prevent the time of the Apocalypse. In 1989, after some resistance, the group was approved as a religious entity in Japan.

Asahara Shoko was deeply influenced by the book of Revelation in the Christian Bible, the prophecies of Nostradamus, Tibetan Buddhist teachings of transmigration, and various Hindu motifs and deities. Shiva, the Hindu god of destruction, serves as the primary deity in Aum. Initially, Asahara taught his followers that they must strive to convert evil energy into positive energy. In order to avoid the mass destruction of nuclear war, thirty thousand disciples must achieve true liberation of spirit through his teachings.

Few outsiders understood that Asahara had a master plan to take over Japan and then the world. Aum created Shinrito (Supreme Truth Party), a new political party, and entered twenty-five candidates in the 1990 Japanese parliamentary election. Perhaps things might have been different if every Shinrito candidate had not been defeated at the polls. Afterwards, Asahara began to receive apocalyptic visions that emphasized the imminent end of the world. One of the most fearful messages from the spirit world stated that the United States would initiate Armageddon by starting World War III with Japan.

With such a cataclysm awaiting the world, Asahara told his followers that they must accelerate their schedule to seize control of Japan. One of the teachings in the Aum belief system held that believers might remove bad karma by enduring various kinds of suffering. Indeed, it seemed logical that nonbelievers might also be assisted in removing their bad karma if Aum should help them in their suffering—even in their death.

In 1994 Aum launched several chemical attacks in Japan. Clouds of sarin nerve gas killed seven people and injured hundreds of others in the Kita-Fukashi district of central Japan. On March 20, 1995, in the midst of morning rush hour in Tokyo, ten highly placed Aum disciples boarded five subway trains at different stations and, at a predetermined time, simultaneously released sarin, killing twelve persons and injuring up to six thousand. Placing the cult under close scrutiny, Tokyo police reported that between October 1988 and March 1995 Asahara may have ordered the murders of thirty-three Aum followers who disobeyed his commands or who wished to leave the cult. Japanese police arrested Asahara and 104 followers in May 1995.

The Japanese government revoked its recognition of the Aum as a religious organization in October 1995, but in 1997 a government panel decided not to invoke the nation's Anti-Subversive Law against the group, which would have outlawed the cult. A 1999 law gave the government authorization to continue police surveillance of the group due to concerns that the Aum might launch future terrorist attacks. In July 2001, Russian authorities arrested a group of Russian Aum followers who had planned to set off bombs near the Imperial Palace in Tokyo as part of an operation to free Asahara from jail and then smuggle him to Russia.

In January 2000, under the leadership of Fumihiro Joyu, Aum changed its name to Aleph ("to start anew") and claimed to have rejected the violent and apocalyptic teachings of its founder. However, early in 2005, Japanese police raided four sites connected with the cult. Inside one, they found a Geiger counter and a partially constructed concrete bunker with underground levels. Many nervous Japanese could not help wondering whether the site was meant to take over the complex of buildings near Mount Fuji, where Aum Shinrikyo once made sarin gas and tortured and incinerated errant members. In 2020, Japan's national intelligence agency warned that Aum Shinrikyo was still a threat after splintered into multiple groups which were actively (albeit secretly) recruiting new members and raising money.

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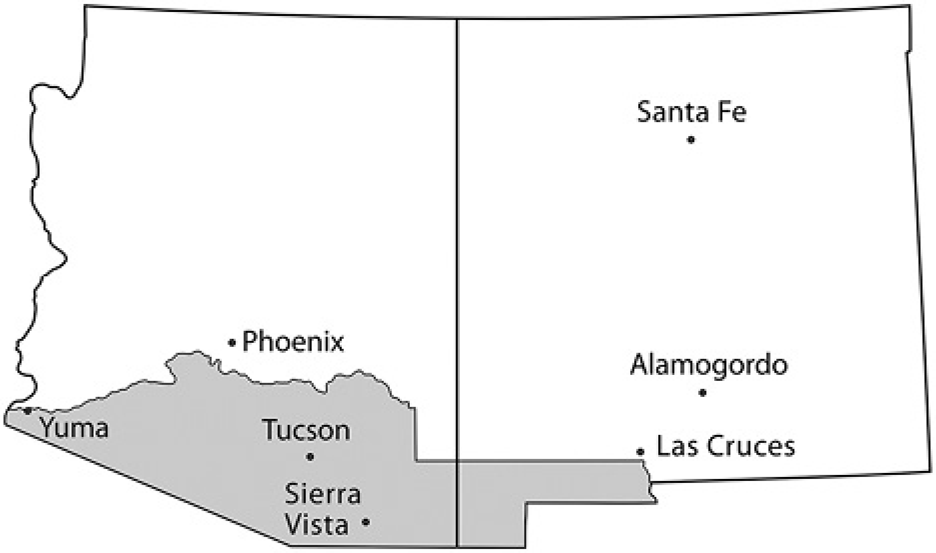
AZTLLÁN

For decades, some conspiracy theorists have warned that Latino activists have been planning to turn part of the American Southwest into a new country to be named Aztlán.



A map of the Gadsden Purchase shows the parts of southern New Mexico and Arizona that the United States took from Mexico following the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848.

If you have never contemplated what the United States would look like if it hadn't been for the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848, and the Gadsden Purchase of 1853, you would be in for quite a shock if you saw a map with the nation's borders minus the land encompassed by those treaties: that America would still be clustered around the northeast seaboard, little more than the original 13 colonies. The United States in its current form was created by purchase, treaty, or conquest.

Starting in the late 1960s, an outgrowth of the Hispanic activist, or "Chicano," movement included groups that seemed to espouse a form of separatism that included liberating the lost lands of the Southwest and creating a new nation known as Aztlán. Groups like MEChA—whose symbol depicts an eagle clutching a machete and a stick of dynamite in its talons—imagine Aztlán as including the present states of Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Utah, California, Oregon, and parts of Washington.

The larger "La Raza" activist movement, including MEChA and others, is feared by some conspiracy theorists to be secretly planning the creation of Aztlán either through violence (revolution) or population fiat (encouraging illegal immigration from Latin America, which anti-immigration activists have called a kind of "Trojan horse" invasion). While this takeover, often referred to as the "Reconquista," currently exists more in heated rhetoric than reality, it continues to animate American nativist conspiracy theorists and border militia members.

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B

B-25 GHOST BOMBER

If this bomber was only on a routine training flight as the air force claimed, why has the entire aircraft disappeared? What was it carrying?

The B-25 Mitchell bomber was one of World War II's most famous U.S. warplanes. On January 31, 1956, an aging B-25 ditched into the Monongahela River near Pittsburgh—and was never seen again. Over the years, the "Ghost Bomber" has achieved legendary status in the area and spawned a number of conspiracy theories concerning its cargo. Depending on the theory, the B-25 was carrying an atom bomb, nerve gas, Las Vegas showgirls, or a fragment of the UFO crash at Roswell. Because of the bomber's clandestine cargo, some theorists contend, a top-secret crew of black-ops specialists arrived, hoisted the plane to the surface, then cut it into pieces and shipped the parts down the river in barges.

According to Air Force records, the B-25 was hauling absolutely nothing of interest. The flight was to give the six-member crew some airtime before the bomber was retired and to pick up some parts some parts along the way. The plane took off from Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, landed at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma for its cargo, then continued to Selfridge Air Force Base in Michigan before flying to Olmstead Air Force Base in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. As the B-25 flew over western Pennsylvania, pilot Major William Dotson saw that his fuel was too low to make Olmstead, so he decided to head for Allegheny County Airport in West Mifflin. Then, realizing that he could not make the Allegheny airport either, he chose to ditch the bomber in the Monongahela between the Glenwood Bridge and the Homestead High Level Bridge.

Hundreds of witnesses viewed the crash from the bridges. Dotson, a seasoned veteran of air campaigns in World War II and the Korean War, told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* after the crash that he chose the river because he didn't want to hit anyone on the ground.

All flight personnel survived the initial impact of the crash. The pilot and five crew members managed to climb out onto the wings as the B-25 began to float downstream. One of the crew members apparently slipped off the wings, and witnesses counted only five men on the rapidly sinking aircraft. About a half mile from Becks Run, the plane sank, and another crew member was lost. The four surviving crewmen were rescued, and the bodies of the two who drowned were found a few weeks later.

The day after the crash, a Coast Guard cutter snagged what searchers believed may have been one of the plane's wings and dragged it to the surface. But the anchor slipped off and whatever it had nearly hauled to the surface sank. On a second try, the two-inch tow line snapped. On a third attempt, a smaller anchor was lost. Three days after the B-25 ditched into the Monongahela, an Army Corps of Engineers dredging barge swept the river 150 times and was unable to find any trace of the bomber. The Pittsburgh River Patrol and private vessels dragged the river repeatedly to find the plane. The water was high and running fast, making their efforts even more difficult. The Coast Guard tried once more, dragging the main channel with a specially made grappling hook, but located nothing. After fourteen days, according to official air force reports, the search for the B-25 was abandoned.

The mystery of the Ghost Bomber of the Monongahela has grown over the years along with the conspiracy theories of Nazi gold, atomic secrets, and treasures of the Illuminati that have been nominated as possible cargoes of the aircraft. In the 1990s a sonar survey located only cars, trees, and an ancient paddle-wheeler. An image that seemed to have potential as a B-25's fuselage turned out to be a sunken barge.

Hundreds of witnesses saw the bomber crash into the river. Four of the six crew members were rescued. Is it possible that a World War II bomber could vanish almost immediately after it ditched? Or did the aircraft contain secrets so incredible that black ops scooped it up and hid it away?

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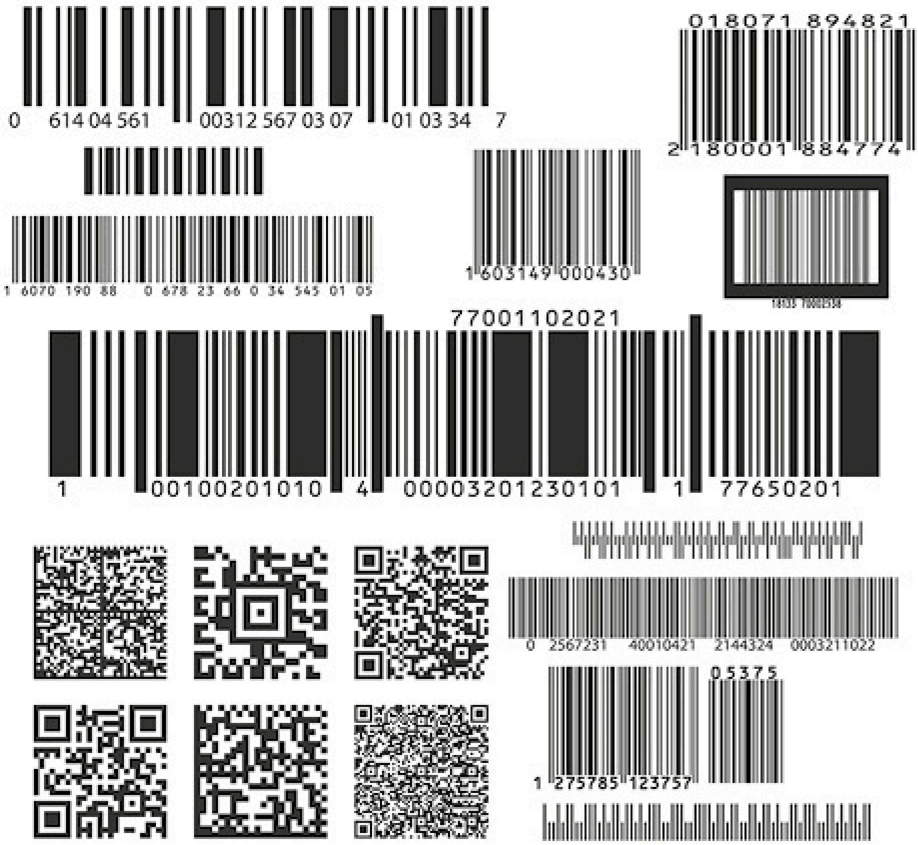
BARCODES

Are these ubiquitous blocks of lines actually the mark of Satan?

In 1974, at a supermarket in the small town of Troy, Ohio, a shopper went to the counter with a revolutionary new kind of Wrigley's chewing gum. The gum's iconic packaging had an odd, rectangular collection of lines and numbers on it, which a cashier passed over a laser scanner that told the register exactly how much to charge for the gum. While the first usage of the Universal Price Code (UPC), more colloquially known as a barcode, was a big step forward for commercial and shipping interests, it was also the start of a rich stream of conspiracy theories. (Unsurprising, given that it was suddenly ubiquitous and used mysterious technology to beam information to who knows where.)

Some protestors pushed back against the rapid introduction of barcode scanners at stores through the 1970s. One fast-spreading conspiracy theory said that the number 666—the biblically revealed "mark of the beast" to some apocalyptic-minded Christians—was contained in every barcode. Later on, a different theory, which overlaps somewhat with fears around biochip implants, said that eventually, people themselves would be tattooed with barcodes or, more prosaically, that a cashless society would force the reliance on barcode-stamped smart cards, all making people more easily identified and tracked by the New World Order.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Barcodes are an example of how nervous people can get when new technology is introduced. Back in the 1970s, people thought barcodes fulfilled a biblical prophecy about the number 666.

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LOUIS BEAM

Louis Beam became a lone-wolf terrorist against the government he believed had betrayed the white race.

One of the most influential and incendiary personalities on the far right, Louis Beam is generally considered the first important practitioner of the "lone-wolf" or "leaderless resistance" model of activism. Beam became active first as a Klansman, later as a neo-Nazi with Christian Identity ties. He spent decades in an active crusade against a government that he judges tyrannical and controlled by an international Jewish conspiracy.

Reared in segregationist Texas, Beam did an eighteen-month tour of duty in Vietnam before returning home in 1968 and joining the Texas branch of United Klans of America (UKA). In 1976 Beam left the UKA and joined David Duke's Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, training Klansmen in guerrilla warfare.

Beam grew increasingly dismayed over the diminishing membership rolls of the white-supremacist movement, and it became his personal mission somehow to revitalize the Klan. During 1978 and 1979 he recruited Klan members among U.S. Army personnel at Fort Hood in Texas. By 1980 Duke had promoted him grand dragon of the Texas Klan.

In 1981 Beam ignited the explosive tensions in the Galveston Bay area of Texas between native-born and refugee Vietnamese shrimp fishermen. Beam brought in armed Klansmen to harass Vietnamese in the area. That year, a U.S. district court ruled in favor of an injunction sought by Southern Poverty Law Center and the Vietnamese Fishermen's Association, ordering Beam and his men to cease their violent intimidation.

Beam … began slowly to fall out of favor with the radicals in the movement because he made anti-Semitism secondary to ridding the nation of the evils of the federal government.

Beam resigned as Texas grand dragon and became ambassador at large for Richard Butler's Aryan Nations. While living at the Aryan headquarters at Hayden Lake, Idaho, Beam helped pioneer the usage of early computer networks to promulgate racist and anti-Semitic propaganda. Beam also created the notorious assassination "point system," awarding scores to would-be assassins based on the importance of their victims. All indications were that Beam would ascend to the leadership of Aryan Nations when the ailing Butler decided to step down.

On April 24, 1987, Beam and thirteen others connected to neo-Nazi terror group The Order were indicted by a federal grand jury on charges that included the firebombing of a Jewish community center in Bloomington, Indiana, attempting to blow up a natural gas pipeline in Arkansas, purchasing firearms and explosives in Missouri and Oklahoma, and stealing over $4 million from banks and armored cars in Washington State. Beam disappeared in Mexico before the indictment was issued. After an encounter with Mexican federal judicial police in Guadalajara that left one officer critically wounded, Beam was captured and turned over to U.S. officials on November 6, 1987. He and his co-defendants were acquitted in 1988, dealing a major blow to the federal government's campaign against the far right.

Filled with new confidence in his cause and defiance toward the federal government, Beam announced the birth of the "New Right," a movement that married Christian Identity to "the creation of a national state for the white man, an Aryan republic within the borders of the present occupied country." He published the essay "Leaderless Resistance," which is about creating decentralized terror cells, that became very influential in right-wing extremist circles, possibly influencing the likes of Timothy McVeigh. At the same time, Beam linked America's far right with the "liberation movements" of Syria, Libya, Iran, and Palestine. In Beam's view, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was a particularly admirable figure.

In the first half of the 1990s Beam was recognized as one of the most influential figures in American extremism. He began slowly to fall out of favor with the radicals in the movement because he made anti-Semitism secondary to ridding the nation of the evils of the federal government. Beam had also been heard to make anti-Nazi comments.

In a letter to supporters in October 1996 Beam stated that it had been ten years since his arrest, trial, and subsequent release at Fort Smith, Arkansas. He had given the cause another ten years, and now he intended to give his family the next years of his life. In addition, he admitted for the first time, he had been exposed to Agent Orange while in Vietnam, and his health was declining. Since then, Beam focused on spreading his message through essays and his website.

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DR. FRED BELL, A MYSTERIOUS DEATH

An expert on Remote Neural Monitoring and Synthetic Telepathy, Dr. Fred Bell was trying to reveal government research in which people could be tracked by satellite by reading their thoughts. He died mysteriously after talking about it on television.

Renaissance man, inventor, eclectic thinker, and controversial scientist and futurist Dr. Fred Bell was considered an expert on Remote Neural Monitoring and Synthetic Telepathy, both of which are likely used covertly by the government. Bell disclosed that secret government agencies had technology that had the ability to record people's electrical body impulses and upload them to a satellite. Using this method, a person under surveillance could be tracked anywhere and his/her thoughts could be read and even reprogrammed remotely.

According to Bell, the symptoms of electronic harassment include unusual forgetfulness, suicidal or homicidal thoughts, panic attacks, depression, and paranoia. "Confusion weaponry" uses frequencies or impulses to disrupt thoughts. Bell also warned about the advanced satellites that can knock things out of the sky with EMP (electromagnetic pulses) similar to what law enforcement is developing to remotely shut down the electronic ignition of cars they're chasing.

Bell was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on August 10, 1943. According to his official biography, his father was a scientist who worked with the late Henry Ford, Sr. His great uncle on his father's side was Alexander Graham Bell, and on his mother's side he was a direct descendant of Ethan Allen, the folk hero of Vermont during the American Revolution. Bell speculated that, as a result of this "strange genetic gene pool," he had a tendency to be a "revolutionist with wild and crazy ideas … a bit of an eclectic eccentric."

Bell was propelled into science at an early age. At fourteen he was not only working at the University of Michigan on nuclear energy projects but was also inducted into the government's MK-Ultra project. This early mind control research covered such topics as past life regression and the popular remote viewing techniques used today by the CIA and other intelligence gathering factions worldwide.

At sixteen he interned at the Army Biological Weapons Division in Little Rock, Arkansas. On his seventeenth birthday, he was transferred into the Air Force, where he began working on highly classified projects, several of which involved early warning radar defense systems and the detection and tracking of extraterrestrial craft.

After he left the defense sector, Bell began studying with Himalayan masters of ancient wisdom. During this time, he became internationally known as a contactee to a Pleiadean group of extraterrestrial humanoids who claimed to have come here to help the people of Earth save themselves from their own destructive tendencies. This group of extraterrestrials allegedly came here from a star system five hundred light years from Earth. For this effort the Russian society of cosmonauts (astronauts) awarded Bell a distinguished scientific progress award.

Bell also wrote several books and is the subject of a number of others.

In 2011, he died suddenly after being interviewed for *Conspiracy Theory with Jesse Ventura*. Many found the death mysterious, particularly given the sensitive nature of what Bell reportedly told Ventura about government development of directed-energy weapons.

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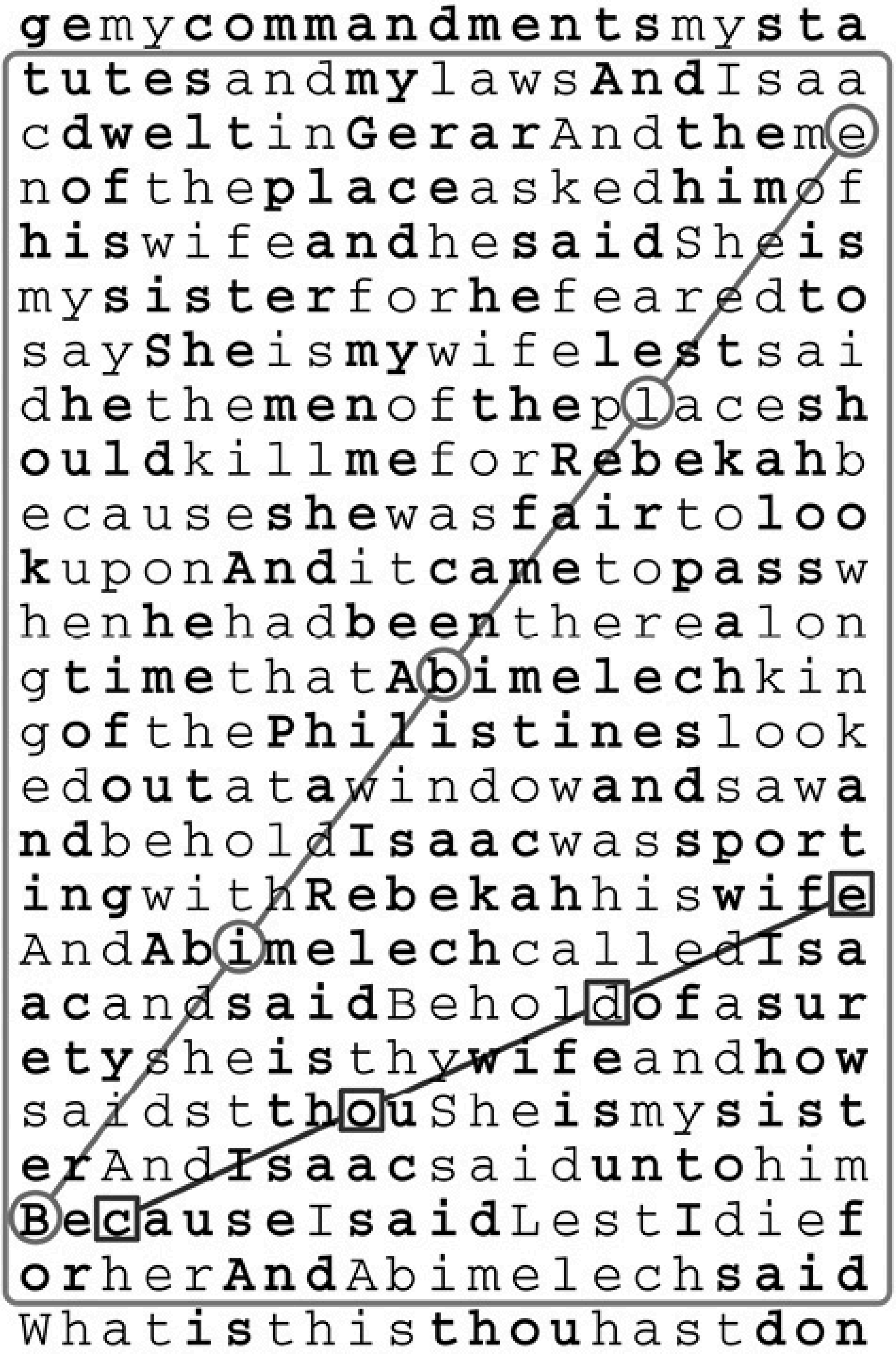
BIBLE CODE

The Hebrew Bible contains encrypted information that can be revealed by computers employing equidistant letter sequence (ELS). The Bible Code proves that the divine hand of God guided the ancient scribes and directed them to place certain prophecies within the texts. The code provides firm scientific proof of the existence of God and his direction of earthly events.

Eliyahu Rips, an Israeli mathematician and one of the leading experts on group theory, together with Doron Witztum and Yoav Rosenberg, discovered the secret that became known as the "Bible Code." Rips and Witztum entitled their original paper on the experiment "Equidistant Letter Sequences in the Book of Genesis." Although rabbis had discovered some parts of the code over the centuries, it was not until the advent of modern high-speed computers that the depth and intricacy of the coded information could be revealed.



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In this example of one method for discovering secret messages in the Bible, the text of Genesis 26:5–10 is removed of word spaces. This reveals how letters of code words are found equidistant to one another.

To gain access to the mysterious code, the mathematicians first arranged the 304,805 Hebrew letters of the first five books of the Bible, the Torah, into a large array, removing all spaces and punctuation and running the words together one after another. Then a computer searched for names, words, and phrases hidden in the text. Rips and his associates ran a test in which they set out to see if the code could pick out the names of the sixty-six rabbis who had the longest entries in various Jewish annals. The computer program found all sixty-six names embedded in the Hebrew text, together with either the rabbis’ birth or death dates.

In test after test, the Bible Code found people, places, and inventions that did not come into being until three thousand years after the ancient Hebrew texts had been recorded. Months before the start of the Gulf War, the researchers found the message *fire on 3rd Shevat* (January 18), the date that Saddam Hussein fired Scud missiles at Israel. The words *Hussein*, *scuds*, and *Russian missile* were all found encoded in a close matrix in Genesis.

Control texts, such as the Hebrew translation of *War and Peace*, were searched, and nothing but random words were found. According to Rips, only the Hebrew Bible may be used, for according to tradition, God gave the characters to Moses one at a time, with no spaces or punctuation. However, in 1997 the mathematician Brendan McKay, among others, found countless "predictions" in *War and Peace* and several other books.

In 1994 Rips and his colleagues published a paper in the *Statistical Science Journal* that passed three levels of secular peer review. Their work was later confirmed by mathematicians at Harvard, Yale, and Hebrew University. It was replicated and confirmed by Harold Gans, a senior codebreaker at the U.S. Department of Defense. Since publication, research has indicated that the hidden code exists throughout all the books of the Tanakh in the original Hebrew.

Working from this research, investigative journalist Michael Drosnin wrote *The Bible Code*. It was a surprise bestseller with a provocative claim: the Hebrew Bible contains a complex code able to predict events which occurred three thousand years after the ancient texts were first written. Among the startling examples given were the discovery of the name *Hitler*, and close by it, the terms *evil man*, *Nazi and enemy*, and *slaughter*. When *Eichmann*—Adolf Eichmann, the man Hitler named to mastermind the extermination of the Jews—was found, the words *ovens*, *extermination*, and *Zyklon-B* (the poison gas employed by the Nazi executioners) were embedded nearby. The Bible Code also contained information regarding the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy as well as their assassins. Drosnin also found word clusters with more positive connotations. For example, a test for *Shakespeare* found his name embedded with *presented on stage*, *Macbeth*, and *Hamlet* nearby. *Beethoven* appeared near *German composer*, *Wright Brothers* near *airplane*, and *Edison* near *electricity* and *light bulb*. Rips has since distanced his research from Drosnin's and emphasized the futility of attempting to predict the future from the code.

Drosnin, who called himself an agnostic and an objective journalist, states that his belief in the Bible Code was confirmed when a fanatic's bullet killed Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1995. Drosnin said that he had seen the assassination forecast in the code a year earlier and had even warned Rabin of the danger. He passed away in 2020.

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BIG BROTHER

The classic 1984 describes a gloomy scenario wherein a totalitarian government called "the Party" has complete control over its people at all times. Many refer to this novel as being a nearly perfect prophetic vision of a bleak and dismal future,

one that seems to be unfolding before our very eyes now in the twenty-first century.

Today we have the technology to dominate and track all citizens with brainwashing techniques, propaganda-enabled media, and tracking and spy systems that follow our every move, with the ability even to see and hear through walls. Yet in 1949 when Orwell wrote about these things in his novel 1984, most were not yet in existence.

"Big Brother," the supreme leader of the Party in Orwell's novel, has come to be synonymous with a dictatorial society in which corporations and government take away our freedom, privacy, and ability to think for ourselves, ruling over us with total power and control. In the novel the Party's slogan, "Big Brother Is Watching You," is continually broadcast in and through all media. There is no place to hide as banners, posters, movie and TV screens, all transmit the declaration of complete domination by Big Brother. By extension, Big Brother and "Big Brother Is Watching You" remain commonplaces in referring to any and all of the conspiracies involved in bringing about a One World Government.

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BILDERBERGERS

The Bilderbergers, a powerful international secret society made up of six hundred wealthy and influential individuals, has an aggressive plan to achieve world domination.

The prestigious and influential secret society known as the Bilderbergers has a membership composed of six hundred very wealthy and very powerful individuals, drawn from the highest executive levels of international business, politics, education, finance, and the media. This elite group is governed by an even more secretive, almost entirely anonymous, inner circle of fifteen, known as the Incunabula.

The Bilderbergers got their name from the place of their first meeting in 1954, the Bilderberg Hotel in Bilderberg, Oosterbeek, Holland. The event was hosted by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands and also apparently a number of luminaries from the European branch of the Illuminati. Since 1954 the Bilderbergers, as they began calling themselves, have met secretly each year in a different geographical location.

Once, when asked the purpose for the international gathering of the global elite, their spokesman, Charles Muller, said that the group discusses issues that affect the Western world—issues such as China, Islam, energy management, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), corporate governance, and the growth of certain nations. Journalists who observed the event from afar during the 1997 gathering said that they spotted Colin Powell, Henry Kissinger, World Bank president James Wolfensohn, and David Rockefeller among the attendees.

Certain conspiracy theorists who have studied the makeup of the Bilderbergers insist that the group is controlled by the ten-man inner circle of the Illuminati. According to those theorists, this secret cabal has painstakingly prepared an agenda for the masses of humanity which includes individuals like the Bilderbergers will become masters of the species, while the vast majority of the global population can look forward to a future existence as pawns, if not slaves, of the Illuminati.

Hotel
De Bilderberg

The Bilderberger Hotel in Bilderberg, Oosterbeek, the Netherlands, is where the society first had its meetings.

According to certain sources who claim knowledge of the basic plan for world dominance set in motion by the Bilderbergers, the following are among their principal objectives:

- The United States must promptly pay its debt to the United Nations. In addition, the U.S. will be asked to contribute billions of dollars to the International Monetary Fund, decimating the country’s finances.
- NATO will be converted into a United Nations military force. U.S. troops will thereby come under the command of foreign officers.
- Corporate governance will dissolve national sovereignty and bring all of the earth’s corporations under a single global order. Local control over businesses and corporations by nations and states will be terminated. The great giants of finance will be able to disregard the laws and dictates of all governments, including those of the United States.

- As the twenty-first century progresses, a new system of fascism will emerge under the guise of "free-trade" practices that will in fact be guided by the Illuminati.
- The Bilderbergers have approved the Red Chinese model of economics as the standard for the emerging European superstate and the United States. As in Communist China, all dissidents will be dealt with severely and placed in work camps.
- As soon as the program can be implemented, citizens in every nation will be issued a universal biometrics identification card.
- A Gestapo-like police force will enforce the dictates of the Illuminati's New World Order.

The 2011 meeting of the Bilderbergers was held at the Suvretta Hotel in St. Moritz, Switzerland on June 9. In attendance, by invitation only, were 140 prominent figures from politics, banking, business, and the military, who met behind closed doors. According to those who claimed to have received inside information regarding the topics that the global elite addressed were the following:

- How the unrest, suffering, and war in the Middle East might be prolonged to increase their profits.
- How internet censorship might be implemented to prevent liberty movements from succeeding in other Middle East countries as they (at least briefly) appeared to have in Egypt and Libya.
- How the worldwide economic crises might be prolonged so that more countries will be forced to impose drastic austerity measures on their citizens.
- How to continue to provoke wars to reduce the world population—always popular on the New World Order agenda.

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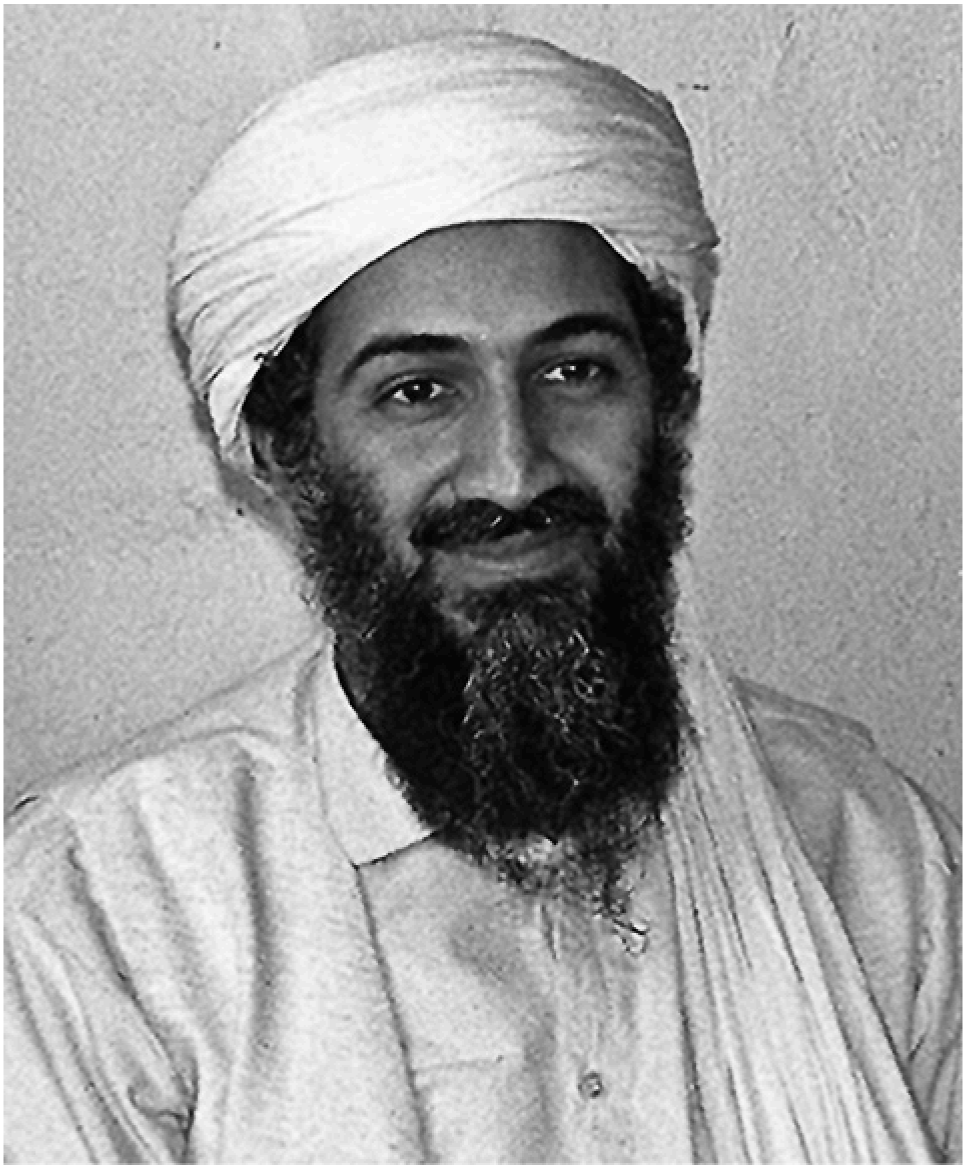
OSAMA BIN LADEN

The CIA's "Frankenstein monster" learned the lessons of terrorism so well that he became the most wanted man on Earth.

For a time the most wanted man on Earth, Osama bin Laden planned many of the modern era's most infamous terror attacks. More than any other single person, he likely lit the spark that kicked off the so-called "War on Terror," the world-spanning and seemingly endless campaign to wipe out Islamic extremism. Although hunted for years by America's intelligence services, bin Laden could ironically enough be described as a monster created by the CIA. Conspiracy theorists see a great irony in this.

Born in 1957 in Saudi Arabia, bin Laden inherited $300 million from his father, a billionaire construction magnate. After amassing a great personal fortune on his own, as a well-connected businessman, he began following a fundamentalist version of Shiite Islam and planning for how to wage *jihad* on unbelievers.

In 1979 bin Laden was one of many people recruited by the CIA, in the largest covert operation in their history, to fight Soviet forces occupying Afghanistan. The Agency used Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) as go-betweens to avoid their efforts being traced back to Washington. Bin Laden began funneling money to the *mujahideen* (Afghan and non-Afghan volunteers fighting a guerrilla war against the Soviets) and building ties to the Egyptian Jihad and other Islamic extremist groups. Some 35,000 Muslim extremists from forty Islamic countries joined the call to wage jihad on the Soviets. The CIA and ISI set up guerilla training camps where combat techniques were integrated with the teachings of Islam. In the early 1980s bin Laden was actively involved in the training camps and enlisted thousands of recruits from Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Egypt, Yemen, Pakistan, and Sudan. In March 1985 President Ronald Reagan signed a National Security Decision Directive that increased covert military aid to the Muslim resistance. The CIA and ISI eventually influenced over 100,000 foreign Islamic radicals to support the resistance to the Soviet invasion.



The leader of the terrorist group Al-Qaeda from 1988 until he was killed by American troops in 2011, Osama bin Laden once worked for the CIA as part of its covert operations against the Soviets in Afghanistan.

The success of the covert operation can be gauged by the responses of Muslim extremists after the Soviets had withdrawn; many later said that they had no idea they were fighting the war on behalf of the United States. Although there were contacts at the upper levels of the intelligence hierarchy, mujahideen in the field never suspected that it was the Americans supplying them with sophisticated weaponry and training them to become more effective warriors. Even bin Laden once admitted he had seen no evidence of American assistance.

The Soviet Union withdrew its troops from Afghanistan in 1989, but civil war erupted almost immediately. The Taliban (the name translates simply and ironically as "students"), supported by various factions within Pakistan, prevailed and installed a hardline Islamic government. Some believe that Washington turned a deaf ear to the Afghanis suffering under the Taliban's reign of terror because the Islamic government was serving America's geopolitical interests (in this theory, the Afghan opium trade helped finance and equip the Bosnian Muslim Army and the Kosovo Liberation Army).

In 1988 bin Laden founded al-Qaeda to unite Arabs who fought against the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan. It wasn't long, however, before he came to believe that al-Qaeda should be the champion for the over one billion Muslims in the world who feel that their complaints have not been heard by the West.

Once the war was over, bin Laden began using al-Qaeda, the group he had formed to unite Arabs who had fought the Soviets to continue their jihad against other countries and people he believed were enemies of what he considered to be true Shiite Islam. One of his chief targets was his old secret ally: America.

After a 1996 truck-bombing of a U.S. military complex near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia killed nineteen U.S. airmen and wounded 515 people (including 240 Americans), bin Laden reaffirmed his call for a jihad against Americans: "We have focused our declaration of jihad on the U.S. soldiers inside Arabia," he said during an interview with CNN. He also warned other attacks were imminent because of the U.S. government's support of Israel.

The reasons for bin Laden's campaign against the U.S. and many of its Western allies were focused on several of his core beliefs:

- Influence of Western decadence threatens Arab fundamentalist cultures in the Middle East and other heavily Islamic parts of the world.
- Americans have manipulated Arab politics and ignored demands for reparations for Zionist atrocities in Israel and the "theft" of Arab land in Palestine.
- The historic Western exploitation of Arab oil until Arabs formed their oil cartel.
- Prejudice against Arabs around the world for their religion and cultural beliefs.
- Desire of Arab fanatics to force the whole world to accept Islam and become an international Islamic theocracy.

In 1994, because of his opposition to the Saudi king, bin Laden was stripped of his citizenship and expelled from Saudi Arabia. He moved his operations to Khartoum, Sudan, where he had many prosperous businesses, but under pressure from the United States, he was expelled from that nation too.

In 1996 he established training bases in Afghanistan mountain encampments. At that time, he told Americans, through an interview with CNN's Peter Arnett, that if they wished his attacks to stop, they should stop provoking the feelings of millions of Muslims. The "hundreds of thousands who have been killed or displaced in Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon," bin Laden warned, had "brothers and relatives" who would make Ramzi Yousef (convicted for the 1993 World Trade Center bombing) "a symbol and a teacher."

Bin Laden founded al-Qaeda ("the Base") in 1998. On August 7 of that year, the group set off a coordinated bombing attack on U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, killing 224 people. This landed bin Laden on the FBI's Most Wanted list. A retaliatory missile strike the U.S. launched against Sudan ended up devastating a factory that produced (among other things) baby food and killing 167 Muslims praying in a nearby mosque, including at least one of bin Laden's relatives. This enraged bin Laden, who then expanded his terror network and declared a *fatwa* (a religious opinion or judgment issued by a qualified scholar or a religious leader) decreeing jihad against America.

A surprise attack on the USS *Cole* in Yemen on October 12, 2000, intensified America's focus on the hard-to-locate terror network but with few tangible results.

After al-Qaeda's September 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, the FBI placed a $25 million bounty on bin Laden's head. But despite the immediate campaign to hunt bin Laden down, numerous members of his family as well as over a hundred other highly placed Saudis, were flown out of the U.S. just after the attacks without being questioned. This was used as proof by conspiracists convinced that secret government agencies were watching over and protecting bin Laden.

Bin Laden evaded U.S. forces in one of history's greatest manhunts through three presidential administrations. But on May 2, 2011, the fugitive leader of al-Qaeda was killed by U.S. Navy SEALs in Abbottabad, Pakistan during a covert strike ordered by President Barack Obama. Within hours, bin Laden's body was prepared for burial according to Muslim religious laws, and he was buried at sea. Al-Qaeda acknowledged the death of their leader and spiritual mentor on May 6, 2011, and vowed to retaliate against Americans wherever they might be found all over the world.

Within a few days, conspiracy theorists convinced that the assassination of the master terrorist had not gone down according to the official U.S. account, began circulating different ideas about what happened.

Conspiracy theorists also made much of apparent discrepancies in accounts of the shootout at the compound (described as a mansion) with the SEALs.

Some insisted bin Laden had escaped the raid on his home and was still on the loose. Others repeated a long-running theory that bin Laden had actually died of health issues many years earlier, with al-Qaeda reporting fake bin Laden sightings as a propaganda tool. Even alleged CIA agents had spread the rumor that bin Laden had died of Marfan syndrome in Dubai in July 2001.

Much of the theorists' skepticism revolved around no photographs of bin Laden's body being made available to the public. Adding to doubts of bin Laden's death was his burial at sea. Many demanded to see the body before they would believe that bin Laden was truly dead.

Conspiracy theorists also made much of apparent discrepancies in accounts of the shootout at the compound (described as a mansion) with the SEALs. Initial reports gave a play-by-play account of a forty-minute gunfight with bin Laden's bodyguards before the SEALs seized the compound and killed their target as he attempted to use his wife as a human shield. Later accounts mentioned only one man defending bin Laden when the SEALs stormed a rubbish-strewn compound rather than a multimillion-dollar mansion.

Skeptics also made an issue of post-raid interviews conducted with bin Laden's neighbors. Most swore they had never seen bin Laden in all the years that he was supposed to have resided there. They were unaware of any evidence proving he had ever lived among them. It seemed especially strange that bin Laden could live undetected in the town for so many years when Abbottabad was known as a Pakistani military town. For all the world knew, people argued, the White House could have selected nearly anyone to serve as a faux bin Laden for the SEALs to kill and bury at sea.

Conspiracy theorists have believed for many years that bin Laden was very useful to elements of the secret government. When the world has had enough of fighting terrorists, so the conspiracists state, the populace will turn to the New World Order as their salvation from chaos. In the meantime, defense contractors get richer and richer, the military more and more powerful.

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BIOCHIP IMPLANTS

The secret government, working together with the Illuminati and the New World Order, plans to chip-implant and track all Americans in order make them subservient to the will of their rulers.

A July 2004 MSN poll revealed that 20 percent of those interviewed would experience no reluctance to receive an implantable microchip, or biochip. Companies offer their employees the option to be implanted. Tech-loving members of the youth culture have accepted biochips in their arms as passes into exclusive nightclubs.

This seems like a curious development, given most people's natural reluctance to have foreign objects permanently placed in their bodies, not to mention ones that have electronic circuitry and can send radio or wireless signals. But perhaps because biochips have been promoted as an effective means of tracing stray pets or abducted children, many people's natural resistance dwindled. There are those who believe that powerful organizations have a vested interest in ensuring that more and more people are implanted with biochips.

In the 1950s and '60s, many experiments in behavior modification were conducted in the United States. Some included the insertion of electrical implants into the brains of animals and humans. Later, when new techniques in influencing brain functions became a priority to military and intelligence services, secret experiments were conducted on such unwilling guinea pigs prisoners, soldiers, mental patients, handicapped children, the elderly, and any group of people considered expendable.

What would happen to our privacy if, one day, everyone was biochipped with their personal information and could be tracked everywhere they went.

Rauni-Leena Luukanen-Kilde, former chief medical officer of Finland, has stated that mysterious brain implants about one centimeter square began showing up in X-rays in the 1980s. In a few years, implants were found the size of a grain of rice. Luukanen-Kilde stated that the implants were made of silicon, later of gallium arsenide. Today such implants are small enough that it is nearly impossible to detect or remove them. They can easily be inserted into the neck or back during surgical operations, with or without the consent of the subject.

In May 1995 the *Washington Post* reported that Prince William of Great Britain was implanted at the age of twelve. If he were ever kidnapped, security agents explained, a radio wave with a specific frequency targeted to his microchip would be routed through a satellite to a computer in police headquarters. Employing such technology, the prince could be located anywhere on the globe.

Many conspiracy theorists believe that in the near future, all Americans will be forced to receive a programmable biochip implant somewhere in their body. The implant will serve as a universal identification card. A number assigned at birth will follow that person throughout life. Eventually, every newborn will receive such an implant. If it includes a radio frequency identification (RFID) chip like those used to track cargo shipments, then a person could be located anywhere on the planet, with nowhere to hide.

According to these fears, people will be informed that the biochip is for identification, safety, or possibly even just convenience (an RFID-enabled biochip could potentially allow a person to pay at the store simply by waving their hand at the register). But the reality is that the implant will be linked to a massive supercomputer system through which government agencies can surveil all citizens at all times. Even worse, say the alarmists, once the surveillance system is in place, the biochips could enable outside intelligences to influence a person's brain cells and neurons. People can be forced to think and to act exactly as government intelligence agencies have programmed them to think and behave.

The technology exists right now to create a totalitarian New World Order. Secret government agencies are utilizing covert neurological communication systems in order to subvert independent thinking and to control social and political activity. The National Security Agency (NSA) has electronic surveillance system that can simultaneously follow the unique bioelectrical resonance brain frequency of millions of people. NSA's Signals Intelligence group can remotely monitor information from human brains by decoding the evoked potentials (3.5 Hz, 5 milliwatt) emitted by the brain; similarly, stimulation signals can be sent to the brains of specific individuals, causing the desired effects to be experienced by the target.

A U.S. Navy research laboratory, funded by intelligence agencies, has achieved the incredible breakthrough of uniting living brain cells with microchips. Those who investigate this conspiracy contend that when such a chip is injected into a man's or a woman's brain, he or she instantly becomes a living vegetable and a subservient New World Order slave. And once this device is perfected, the biochip implant could easily be converted into a "Frankenstein-type weapon," and the Defense Department can produce an army of killer zombies.

Various conspiracy journals recount the allegations issuing from a couple in Palo Alto, California, who are convinced that their teenaged son's psychological problems are the result of a biochip that was implanted in his head by a CIA agent during a tonsillectomy. According to the young man and his parents, he is constantly receiving threats and negative thoughts through a wavelength received by the biochip in his brain. They swear the device has shown up on X-rays, but that the evidence was destroyed by CIA agents.

According to researchers, those who have been victimized by mind-control experiments are often diagnosed as mentally ill by doctors who are not privy to the secret research being conducted against the will of private citizens. Such claims that the individuals are being targeted against their will or being used as guinea pigs for electronic, chemical, and bacteriological forms of psychological warfare are assessed as paranoid delusions.

Experts have said that a micromillimeter chip placed in the optical nerve of the eye could draw neuroimpulses from the brain that embody the experiences, smells, sights, and voice of the implanted subject. These neuroimpulses could be stored in a computer and projected back to the person's brain, via the microchip, to be reexperienced. A computer operator could send electromagnetic messages to the target's nervous system, thereby inducing hallucinations.

There are other potential concerns. Researchers have shown that biochips can be hacked by malicious software.

Before his execution in 2001, convicted Oklahoma City Federal Building bomber Timothy McVeigh frequently stated his contention that federal agents were able to track him during the 1990s because of an electronic monitoring device that had been placed in his leg. McVeigh was not alone in his belief that the U.S. Army secretly implanted such devices in the legs of American soldiers during the Gulf War. Numerous veterans have made similar allegations.

More recently, conspiracy theorists and anti-vaccine activists denounced the mass vaccinations against COVID-19 in 2021, arguing against any known research that the shots contained tiny biochips for tracking the vaccinated. Generally, arguments that most people are already easily trackable via the geolocation data constantly being streamed out of their smart phones made little difference to the frightened.

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BIOMAGNETIC WEAPONS

During the Cold War, the Americans and Soviets were both working on technology to control minds remotely.

In 1959, professor of social psychology Saul B. Sells convinced the CIA that he would be able to build a special electroencephalography machine that could analyze brain waves. In other words, his machine could read minds.

The CIA received Dr. Sells's proposal with great enthusiasm, for the agency had amassed convincing intelligence that Soviet spy masters had already developed an instrument capable of controlling minds at a distance. Some intelligence suggested that the Soviets were beaming a complex microwave signal at the American Embassy in Moscow from a building across the street.

Dr. Sells's project was approved by the CIA in 1960, and it was named "Subproject 119" in the Agency's mind control program known as MK-Ultra. Specifically, the objective of 119 was to develop "techniques for activating the human organism by remote electronic means."

By the late 1970s, the project had produced what writer Harlan Girard termed "the ultimate weapon … a weapon system that operates at the speed of light, that can kill, torture, enslave, and escape detection." According to Girard and other investigators, electromagnetic weapons have been tested on humans since 1976. Whenever word has leaked out by whistleblowers concerning the heinous nature of such experiments, organized attacks on the credibility of the involuntary human test-subjects have proceeded with such viciousness that all criticism of the research has been effectively squelched.

By the late 1970s, the project had produced what writer Harlan Girard termed "the ultimate weapon ... a weapon system that operates at the speed of light, that can kill, torture, enslave, and escape detection."

In 1973, Dr. Joseph C. Sharp, an experimental psychologist at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, was able to use equipment that had the capacity to convert sound waves into microwave radiation that enabled him to transmit threatening voices into a subject's head. In addition to inducing paranoid schizophrenia into a subject, the sound waves could block the normal processes of memory and supplant them with distorted pseudo-memories. As this project was developed, the researchers were able to produce electronic telepathy, transmit false memories, and induce visions, daydreams, and nightmares into the brains of involuntary test subjects.

The transmission of thoughts and fears would be effective on prisoners or on individuals subjected to brainwashing, but the apparatus truly becomes a weapon when the electronic frequencies are used to cripple people by limiting their range of movement or by prompting major organ failure, including heart attacks. Lessening the effects would cause severe pain, rather than death, and would be an extremely painful instrument of torture. A number of conspiracy researchers firmly believe that such bioelectromagnetic devices were used in Iraq to gain information from prisoners of war.

In March 2001, the U.S. Marine Corps released information about their new non-lethal weapon, "active denial technology." According to those who had perfected such technology, the device causes the human skin to boil without damaging the skin itself.

According to an evaluation of the Marine Corps claims published in *New Scientist*, the device produces "pulsed electromagnetic radiation at a frequency of 95 GHz with a range of about 600 meters." Volunteers testing the Active Denial System's effectiveness in crowd control said that the projected beam caused pain within two to three seconds. In less than five seconds, the pain was unanimously declared to be "intolerable."

Starting in 2016, personnel at the U.S. embassy in Cuba began reporting a rash of discomfiting symptoms—headaches, nausea, popping ears—which resulted in some being medically evacuated. In following years, American diplomats were suffering the same symptoms at postings in China and Russia, suggesting to some that the so-called "Havana Syndrome" was a concerted campaign of intimidation by an adversary using a microwave energy weapon.

MK-Ultra was allegedly shut down in the 1970s, and all information regarding the CIA and military's research on Active Denial Systems are highly classified. Once again, the general public is praying that those controlling the experiments possess a modicum of good will and compassion, given that these electromagnetic weapons can kill, torture, and enslave entire populations at the speed of light. Such machines would, indeed, be the ultimate weapons for tyrants, dictators, and New World Order despots.

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BLACK HELICOPTERS

Since the 1970s, hundreds of men and women have reported being harassed and spied upon by mysterious unmarked black helicopters, which they believe to be the property of a clandestine national police force that will soon begin to wage incessant warfare against all Americans who oppose the secret government.

Since the 1970s, there have been reports of mysterious, unmarked, black helicopters that spy on and harass people.

Many conspiracy theorists believe that people conducting research like themselves are certain to be under surveillance by hovering black helicopters without any identifying markings and flying at unsafe or illegal altitudes.

These beliefs particularly began to take off in the early 1990s. At the same time that militia and other anti-government groups began setting up compounds and disseminating their beliefs, there was a concurrent rise of stories about mysterious unmarked black helicopters surveilling the countryside. The crews were generally described as wearing black uniforms and carrying automatic weapons. Quickly spreading concerns about these hovering monitors dovetailed with the belief that elements in the American government were laying the groundwork for a takeover by the United Nations, itself understood to be just a front for a New World Order that would outlaw guns, seize land, and ramp up taxes. Many people reported seeing bar codes on the back of traffic signs, potentially placed there to help guide the foreign invasion.

Fears of the helicopter-scouted takeover were particularly prevalent in the American West, despite arguments that the hovering craft were in fact searching for secret marijuana growing operations or simple military training missions. Concerns became so elevated in the 1990s that some conservative lawmakers were described as being part of a "Black Helicopter Caucus." Idaho Representative Helen Chenoweth even held Congressional hearings about black helicopters.

According to some conspiracy researchers, the crews of the black helicopters are veterans of the CIA's infamous brainwashing and assassin-training program MK-Ultra. These researchers were convinced that the black helicopter crews were assigned to seek out those investigators becoming too much of an annoyance to the secret government.

Black helicopters were also connected at one point, by writers like Jim Keith in particular, to the rash of cattle mutilations throughout the West.

It is further believed that the black helicopters patrol the areas above underground bases constructed for use by government agencies in the event of nuclear war. Entities associated with such underground facilities include the Pentagon, CIA, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and National Security Agency. According to some informants, at least ninety-six of these facilities were secretly funded by the U.S. government.

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BLACK SUN

This German secret society was developed to prepare the Aryan race to meet the supermen who live in the earth's interior.

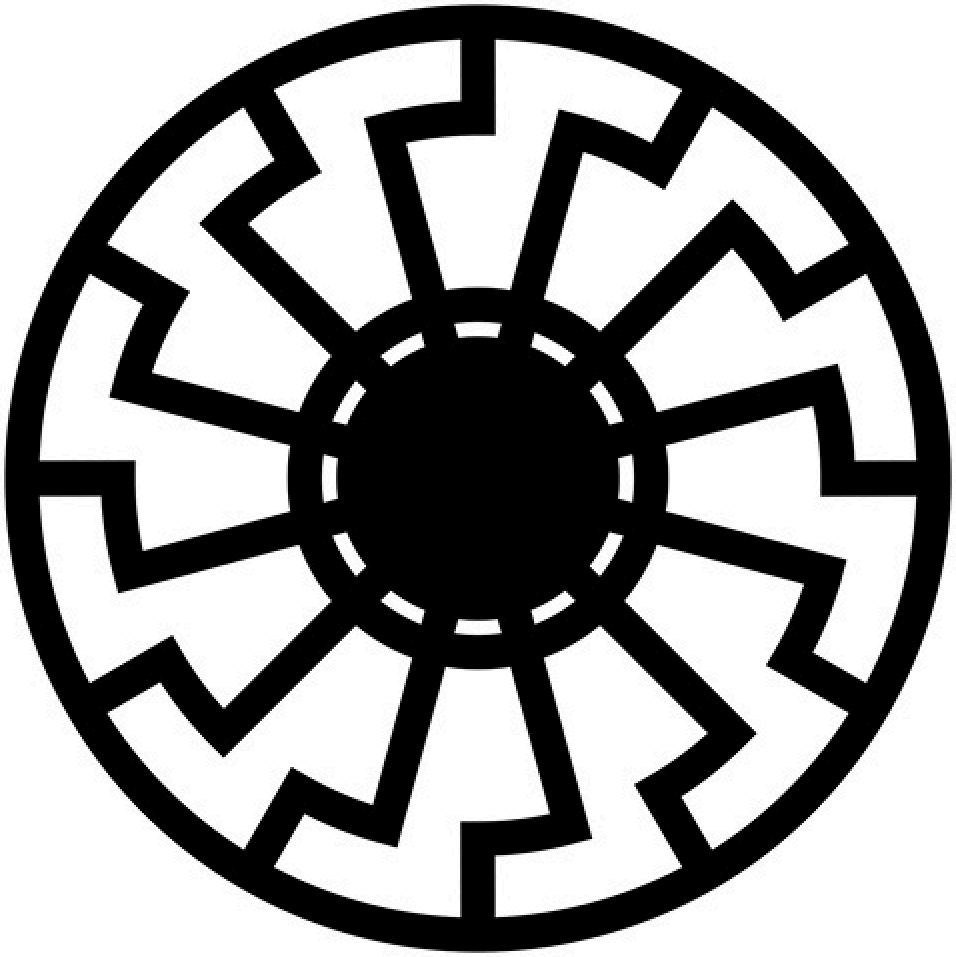
The Coming Race (1871), a novel by the occultist Edward Bulwer-Lytton, was set in the earth's interior, where an advanced civilization of giants thrived. The giants had built a paradise and discovered a form of energy so powerful that they outlawed its use as a potential weapon. This force, the Vril, was derived from the Black Sun, a large ball of "Prima Materia" that provides light and radiation to the inhabitants of the inner earth.

Persistent legends in nearly every culture tell of an elder race that populated the earth millions of years ago. Many legends describe the Old Ones, who may originally have been of extraterrestrial origin, as an immensely intelligent and scientifically advanced species who eventually chose to structure their own environment under the surface of the planet's soil and seas. The Old Ones usually remain aloof from the surface dwellers, but from time to time throughout history they have been known to visit certain of the upper world's more intelligent members in the guise of alchemists or mysterious scientists in order to offer valuable advice in the material sciences.

According to certain occult traditions, Agharta is a subterranean empire of underworld supermen who periodically surface to oversee the progress of the human race. According to one source, the underground kingdom of Agharta was created when the ancestors of its present-day denizens drove the Serpent People from the caverns during an ancient war.

By the 1840s the legend of Agharta and its underworld capital, Shambhala, had circulated widely among the mystically minded in Germany. According to this ancient tradition, the Master of the World already controlled many kings and rulers of the surface world by exercising his occult powers. Soon this master and his super race would launch an invasion of the surface nations and subjugate all humans to his will. Various secret societies formed in Germany in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries wanted desperately not only to prove themselves worthy of the superhumans who lived beneath the planet's surface, but also to control the incredibly powerful Vril force. This ancient force had been known among the alchemists and magicians as the Chi, the Odic force, the Orgone, and Astral Light, and they were well aware of its transformative powers to create supermen of ordinary mortals.

The secret society of the Black Sun coexisted with the Vril and the Thule societies in Germany prior to and during World War I and blended with the other groups after the war. Although these societies borrowed some concepts and rites from Theosophists, Rosicrucians, and various Hermetic groups, they placed special emphasis on what they believed to be the innate mystical powers of the Aryan race. Mme Helena Blavatsky had listed the Six Root Races—the Astral, Hyperborean, Lemurian, Atlantean, Aryan, and the coming Master Race. Black Sun followers believed that Germanic/Nordic/Teutonic people were of Aryan origin, and Christianity had destroyed the power of the Teutonic civilization.



The Black Sun symbol

The Black Sun, like the swastika, is a very ancient symbol. While the swastika represents the eternal fountain of creation, the Black Sun is even older, suggesting the very void of creation itself. The symbol on the Nazi flag is the Thule *Sonnenrad* (sun wheel), not a reversed good-luck swastika. The Black Sun can be seen in many ancient Babylonian and Assyrian places of worship. In its German incarnation, it perhaps also suggests the Norse myth in which the great wolf Fenrir will swallow the sun at the beginning of the Wolf Age.

Today, many white supremacist groups use a variation on the Black Sun design for their iconography.

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BOHEMIAN GROVE

Sealed off by black helicopters and a private security force, the wicked men of the Bohemian Grove are free to perform supreme acts of vile debauchery while they plan the fate of the world.

Every year, some 2,500 of the world's wealthiest, most influential, and most powerful men meet for seventeen intense days at the San Francisco Bohemian Club's private 2,700-acre retreat on the Russian River in California's Sonoma County. There, amidst the ancient redwood trees and sealed off from the public by helicopters and armed guards, the guests indulge in gourmet food and liquor, take part in esoteric rites and rituals, and make decisions that—according to conspiracy theorists—shape international policies that influence people throughout the world.

The membership roll of this elitist and all-male group is kept in strictest confidence, but it includes super-wealthy, blood-dynasty family members of the Illuminati, corporate chieftains, and high government officials. According to a number of conspiracy theorists and fundamentalist Christian evangelical ministers, the rich and powerful gentlemen cavorting in the Bohemian Grove included, at one time or another, politicians like George H. W. Bush, Gerald Ford, Antonin Scalia, Caspar Weinberger., George Shultz, and Henry Kissinger. Other members or guests have included the mayors of Los Angeles, San Francisco, and other major cities; astronauts Wally Schirra and Frank Borman; FBI and CIA directors; secretaries of state; international bankers; and the heads of big oil companies. Many of the world's media chiefs are Bohemian Grove members, including leading representatives of *Time*, *People*, CNN, and many other information outlets.

The former German chancellor Helmut Schmidt is alleged to have commented that his weekend as a guest at the Bohemian Grove encampment was one of the most astounding experiences that he ever had in the United States. In homage to the group's power, longtime member Richard Nixon once sent a telegram to the group that read, "Anyone can be President of the United States, but very few can ever hope of becoming President of the Bohemian Club."

According to an informant, Great Britain's Queen Elizabeth made a stunning cameo appearance at the Bohemian Grove in 1983. Her Majesty was honored with a wild, ecstatic pagan dance ceremony, complete with stage props such as Egyptian pyramids and Babylonian artifacts.

In the allegations of certain researchers, the Bohemian Grove hierarchy exercises considerable control over the U.S. presidency. President Ronald Reagan once confided to friends that it was his acceptance by the men of the Bohemian Grove, following his "coming out" at one of their conclaves, that sealed for him the high office of president of the United States. In 1995 House Speaker Newt Gingrich was reported to have attended the meeting in the grove and was given instructions to cooperate with President Bill Clinton in building the New World Order.

One of the main rituals performed by the Bohemian Grove participants involves their bowing down before a forty-foot statue of an owl. Walter Cronkite is said to have recorded the voice of the carved-wood owl, the mascot that opens the ceremonies. Members proudly display owl figurines, statues, and images in their homes and in their corporate and government offices. Though some have mocked the Bohemian Grove's quasi-Masonic and Druidic ceremonies—including fire and elaborate costumery—others worry that the combination of powerful men, ritual, and extreme secrecy means nothing good for the world outside the redwoods.

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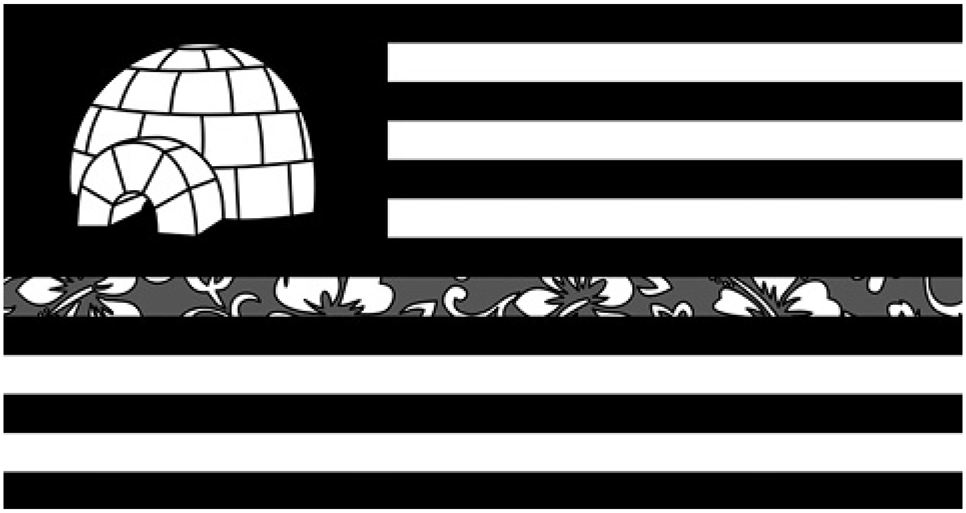
BOOGALOO BOIS

By the time you read this, this band of quasifascist thrill seekers may have already found something else to do.



This is one of the flags that Boogaloo Bois use at rallies to identify themselves.

Starting around 2019, one of many conclaves of frenetic online commenters began coalescing into an actual movement with real-world consequences. The Boogaloo Bois took their name from an internet meme with an extended trail of a backstory—branching out from a joke played on the infamously horrible movie *Breakin' 2: Electric Boogaloo*, which then became shorthand for those eager to see the eruption of mass violence, or what they called "Civil War 2: Electric Boogaloo"—that centered mostly around worries about gun-seizure operations by the federal government. Taking the same progun, antigovernment paranoia and racism that characterized the militia movement and adding snark-laden pop culture references, the Boogaloo Bois were so swathed in irony that for a time, it seemed hard to tell whether it was all just another online identity. Blurring left and right dichotomies was the Boogaloo Bois's fierce antipolice rhetoric and apparent eagerness to simply accelerate a civil war with what seemed like no concrete ideological agenda.

By 2019, White supremacists, militias, and a clutch of semisecret online "patriot"-affiliated groups with few strict ideological covenants besides a fanatic devotion to assault rifles, camouflage, computer games, and conspiratorial nightmares about gun confiscation began to adopt Boogaloo memes and iconography. The violence then began jumping from online message boards into the physical world.

After White supremacist John Earnest shot and killed one person in an attack on a synagogue in Poway, California, in April 2019, he was celebrated by Boogaloo posters. In May 2020, Boogaloo members showed up to anti-police-brutality protests following the killing of George Floyd, with one firing his AK-47 into a Minneapolis police precinct building. (Some researchers identified the so-called "Umbrella Man" who set fire to a Minneapolis store, helping turn a previously calm demonstration into a riot, as a White supremacist accelerationist, but he was never tied to Boogaloo.) That June, Boogaloo-linked Air Force sergeant Steven Carrillo killed a federal protective service officer in Oakland, California, and a Santa Cruz County sheriff's deputy before being arrested. Other Boogaloo members plotted to set off bombs at protests in order to accelerate the civil war they continued to pine for.

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BRITISH PETROLEUM OIL SPILL

On April 20, 2010, Deepwater Horizon, the semi-submersible exploratory offshore drilling rig in the Macondo Prospect oil field in the Gulf of Mexico, exploded and sank after two days. A partially capped oil well one mile below the surface of the water began releasing 35,000 to 60,000 barrels per day into the Gulf, eventually contaminating the coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, and Florida.

Of the 126 crew members on board the rig at the time of the explosion, 79 were employees of Transocean Ltd., seven of British Petroleum, and the rest of various companies, including Anadarko, Halliburton, and M-I Swaco. Eleven crew were killed as a result of the blowout. The U.S. government named British Petroleum (BP) as the responsible party and held the company liable for all clean-up costs and other damages. Deep-sea robots were unable to stop the approximately 60,000 barrels of oil from gushing into the Gulf until July 15, 2010.

London-based BP is one of the largest oil and gas companies in the world, with operations in over eighty countries. Although BP assumed responsibility for the clean-up at an estimated $7 million a day, established a $20 billion spill response fund, and willingly dealt with individual lawsuits, some conspiracy theorists argued that they had in fact purposefully destroyed the rig in the Macondo Prospect oil field itself in order to profit from higher gas prices.

Ships surrounding BP's Deepwater Horizon try to burn off escaping gases to minimize the damage caused by the catastrophic oil leak in 2010. Was this an act of self-sabotage for the purpose of pure greed at the cost of the environment?

Other conspiracists argued that BP and the citizens of the Gulf Coast region were the victims of such insidious plots as:

- *North Korea, a nation whose leaders seem intent on prodding the United States and South Korea to declare war, launched a small suicide submarine from Cuba with the mission of blowing up a significant number of oil rigs off the coast of the United States. Although the destruction of Deepwater Horizon* was successful, the submarine was also destroyed when it ventured too close to the rig. U.S. officials declared a blackout of the identity of the submariners in order to prevent a national panic about an attack in U.S. waters, and North Korean involvement was covered up.
- Rush Limbaugh, who has never met a disaster that he couldn't blame on liberals and Democrats, expressed his suspicions that left-wing saboteurs blew up the *Deepwater* rig on the eve before Earth Day, thus signaling that the Cap-and-Trade Bill was an important deterrence to the evil of drilling for oil off the coast of the United States.
- Republicans, who are unashamedly in favor of drilling for oil in any and all parts of the United States, sent a demolition squad to blow up the *Deepwater Horizon*, figuring they would somehow come up with a plan that would blame President Obama for the disaster.
- Oil-field service multinational Halliburton Company, which figures prominently in many post-9/11 conspiracy theories around the Iraq War and had been contracted to cement

the rig's drill hole, could have purposefully caused the disaster in order to juice oil prices.

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RON BROWN MURDER

Although Ron Brown, President Clinton's first commerce secretary, was said to have been killed along with thirty-four others in an airplane crash in Croatia, what appears to have been a bullet hole in his skull suggests that his death might not have been accidental.

In August 1997, sixteen months after he died in a jet crash, Ron Brown, President Bill Clinton's first commerce secretary, was once again in the Washington spotlight as congressional investigators examined allegations that he had misused his agency to aid Clinton's reelection campaign. Principal among the accusations were those suggesting that Brown had sold his influence with the president to the highest bidders among U.S. business executives and foreign interests.

FBI agent Jerome Campane testified that restauranteur Charlie Trie, a Clinton friend from Little Rock, escorted Chinese arms dealer Wang Jun to a White House coffee with the president in February 1996. After the amenities at the coffee party, according to Campane, Trie and Jun went across Pennsylvania Avenue to meet with Brown at Commerce.

Accusations of campaign abuses continued to be thrown at the Democratic National Committee, which Brown had headed before he joined Clinton's cabinet. Getting the goods on the crew who helped reelect the president was made difficult by Brown's sudden death and the fact that as early as the summer of 1997, nearly all of the twenty-one senior officials or lower-level employees who worked under Brown had left the agency. According to former Commerce aide Robert Atkins, political documents bearing the logo of the Democratic National Committee and the Executive Office of the President were frequently shredded at Commerce—so much so, Atkins said, that the shredder was repeatedly broken from overuse.

When persistent investigators sought to interview the air traffic controller to gain his interpretation of the events leading up to the accident, they found, to their great concern, that he had committed suicide.

Brown was the Democratic National Committee chairman from 1989 to 1992. He headed the Commerce Department for three years, from January 1993 until his death in April 1996. Perishing with him in the Croatian air tragedy were twenty-eight other passengers, including senior officers of the Commerce Department, corporate chief executive officers, financial experts, journalists, photographers, and the aircraft's six-person crew.

One of those crew members, Tech. Sgt. Shelly Kelly, is said to have survived the crash with only minor cuts and bruises but somehow died en route to the hospital. An autopsy later revealed a three-inch incision over her femoral artery. According to some sources, the incision was made at least three hours after the injuries sustained in the crash. Strangely enough, there were no further autopsies. An official order called for all the bodies to be cremated. This was considered by most people to be a thoughtful act because so many of the bodies were terribly shattered. It is also impossible to conduct autopsies on ashes.

Although the majority of U.S. officials denied even the possibility of foul play, a number of investigators wondered why the plane were ordered to take off in storm described as the worst the area had seen in ten years, with a visibility of only a hundred yards.

The jet, a military version of the Boeing 737, left Cilipi Airport at 2:48 P.M. and vanished from the screens of the main regional radar station at 2:52 P.M. It continued over Cilipi's first beacon, 11.9 miles from the airport, at 2:54 P.M. If the aircraft had not strangely vanished from the radar screens, Cilipi control tower could have warned the pilots that they had begun to veer slightly off course. The jet was now heading straight for the mountain of Sveti Ivan.

At 2:58 P.M. the plane flew over the tiny village of Velji Do at the base of Sveti Ivan and crashed a few seconds later. Official investigators wondered how a beacon light that tests had shown to be extremely accurate could have misled the pilot. When they sought to view the tapes at the control tower in the hope of gaining a clue to the mysterious misdirection, they discovered the tapes had somehow disappeared. When persistent investigators sought to interview the air traffic controller to gain his interpretation of the events leading up to the accident, they found, to their great concern, that he had committed suicide.

That left the plane's black box, the cockpit voice recorder, to provide whatever clues might exist to explain the reasons for the tragic crash. Local Croatian journalists were informed that U.S. Marines had recovered the black box. However, the Pentagon later denied that there was a black box on board the aircraft, claiming that the box the marines had taken was designed only to hold soda and toilet paper for the pilots.

When civilian investigators from the plane's engine manufacturer Pratt and Whitney arrived to conduct their own research into the crash, they were told to leave because the Air Force had officially canceled the usual safety investigation.

But the biggest bombshell of all was the statement by Lt. Col. Steve Cogswell that there was a wound on the very top of Ron Brown's head that looked suspiciously like a bullet hole. Cogswell, a member of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP), had participated in the investigation of the crash, and according to his allegations, when Brown's body was examined by military medical personnel, they discovered a wound that could have been caused by a gunshot.

Cogswell's startling assertions were seconded by Lt. Col. David Hause, who later examined the suspicious head wound on Brown's corpse at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware.

Hause said that a "commotion" erupted when one of the medical examiners exclaimed that the wound looked like a "punched out .45-caliber entrance hole."

In December 1997 Cogswell expressed his opinion that the wound on the top of Brown's head was "as close to a perfectly circular hole as you can get." Hause, one of the AFIP's leading experts on gunshot wounds, agreed with his colleague that the wound appeared consistent with a high-velocity impact caused by a bullet. Cogswell, who had taken part in more than a hundred plane crash investigations, and Hause, who had been involved in such examinations for five years, went on record as stating that neither of them had ever before seen a similar wound in a plane crash victim's head.

Nobody took Cogswell seriously, even when he charged that initial X-rays of Brown's head revealed tiny metallic fragments, which he said could be consistent with a disintegrating slug from a .45. Furthermore, Cogswell alleged that these damning X-rays were later replaced by others that did not indicate the possible bullet fragments. He was later put under internal investigation and had all AFIP-related materials taken from his possession.

Based on the AFIP's actions toward Cogswell, investigators of the Ron Brown mystery ask themselves three basic questions:

1. Were government officials disturbed because the AFIP botched the medical examination of Brown?
2. Were high-ranking officials upset that the American public might learn that the AFIP botched the case?
3. Were officials at the highest rank in the government worried that the American public might learn that Ron Brown was murdered?

Of course, these questions raise one more: Why would anyone want to murder Ron Brown?

Before Brown left for Croatia/Bosnia-Herzegovina, he was up to his neck in numerous scandals. He was under investigation by the Justice Department, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the congressional Reform and Oversight Committee, the FBI, the Energy Department, the Senate Judiciary Committee—and even by his own Commerce Department's inspector general. There were also charges that the government of Vietnam convinced the United States to drop a trade embargo against their country by paying Brown $700,000. The cash was deposited in a Singapore bank account, and the embargo fell. Although the FBI began an investigation of this alleged purchase of political influence by a foreign power, President Clinton allegedly ordered the agents to cease and desist. Later, a federal grand jury probe was neutralized. Additionally, just four days before the crash, FBI and IRS agents subpoenaed witnesses for a grand jury hearing regarding Brown's various activities in Washington. According to purported sources close to the commerce secretary, Brown threatened to finger the Clintons as his partners in wrongdoing and tell all that he knew about Whitewater unless Clinton used his power to call off the various investigations.

It is against this background that certain of those investigating the death of Ron Brown make the most serious charge of all: A decision was made at the highest political levels that there was no time to arrange a "Vince Foster–type" suicide. It was unfortunate that all those Commerce Department officials and high-ranking U.S. businesspersons had to be traveling with Brown, but there was no choice other than to order a "mysterious crash" in Croatia. How convenient that the area was undergoing the worst snowstorm in ten years. That would make an airplane crash seem all the more believable.

Many serious questions regarding Ron Brown's death remain to be answered, and persistent investigators vow to keep chipping away at the case until the true story is revealed to the American public.

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MAE BRUSSELL

Years of intensive research convinced Mae Brussell that the Kennedy assassination, the CIA, and Nazi Germany were all linked to an international network of secret societies.

After seventeen years of feisty and fiery radio broadcasts in which she warned her listeners that the United States was secretly controlled by a shadow government, Mae Brussell became known to her many admirers as the "Queen of Conspiracy."

Born in Beverly Hills in 1922, Brussell was the daughter of the prominent Wilshire Boulevard Temple rabbi Edgar Magnin and the great-granddaughter of Isaac Magnin, founder of the I. Magnin clothing stores. When John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, Brussell was busy raising five children but still knew immediately that the official story was bunk. Convinced that there was no way that Lee Harvey Oswald was a lone wolf, she started tracking down clues to the Kennedy and Oswald murders before becoming one of America's most influential conspiracy theorists. Brussell purchased the twenty-six-volume Warren Commission report on the killings and began reading, filing, and cross-indexing information from a wide variety of books, articles, and government documents. She later divorced and moved from Southern California to Carmel Bay in Monterey.

After years of intensive research, Brussell discovered that the Kennedy assassination revealed links not only to the CIA and Nazi Germany, but to many other contemporary and historic institutions and events throughout the world. It seemed clear to her that the international network of secret societies and conspiracies that had created the Axis powers during World War II—and had supposedly been defeated—had merely gone underground and very effectively continued their campaign to control governments worldwide. In document after document, Brussell recognized many of the same names and the same devious tactics that had been used to transform Germany from a cultured and scientific nation in the 1920s and 1930s into a barbaric and malicious machine of racism and hatred.

Brussell began writing articles filled with dense interlinkings of conspiracy in magazines like *The Realist*. In 1971 she started a radio show, *Dialogue: Conspiracy* on Monterrey rock station KLRB. Later, her show was picked up by other stations where listeners could hear her lengthy exegesis of topics like the suspicious deaths connected to Watergate. Nearly every week for seventeen years, Brussell shared information from her files of raw data, covering everything from the assassination of the president in Dallas to the Iran-Contra investigations to what she considered the atrocities and high crimes of the Reagan administration. Serving as a precursor to conspiratorial superspreaders like Art Bell, she amassed followers called "Brussell Sprouts" and popularized many ideas that later became common currency among conspiracy theorists (primarily that leftover Nazis were scattered throughout the American security system, which they used to manipulate history, concentrate financial and political power, and eliminate enemies at will).

In a 1974 article about the truth behind the Symbionese Liberation Army, Brussell declared with fiery conviction that "Conspiracy theories only remain 'theories' when there is no court, no lawyer, no judge, no Congress, with the courage to expose the evidence."

From time to time when Brussell had no host station for her show, she recorded her broadcasts at home on a small cassette tape recorder and personally mailed out copies to a list of subscribers. In 1983 her radio program was picked up by KAZU in Pacific Grove, California, but in 1988 she was forced off the air by a death threat. She continued sending out tapes detailing her research and investigations until June 13, 1988. Mae Brussell died of cancer on October 3, 1988.

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GEORGE H. W. BUSH

The Bush family tree reveals their descent from a reviled traitor and a ruthless warlord who took delight in invading other countries. Which is stronger, heredity or environment? Or does it matter?

After serving as vice president under Ronald Reagan (left), George H. W. Bush, who formerly headed the C.I.A., became the U.S. president from 1989 to 1993. His son, George W. Bush, was president from 2001 to 2009.

According to an Irish artist working on a tapestry to commemorate Ireland's Norman heritage, the Bush family is descended from a line of traitors and ruthless warlords. Ann Griffin Bernstroff was researching the history of Richard de Clare, Earl of Pembroke, when she discovered the genealogical link to the George H. W. Bush family in the United States. Pembroke, known as Strongbow for his skill as an archer, was power-hungry warlord who led an invasion of old Ireland. The Bush lineage can also be traced to Dermot MacMurrough, who is reviled in Irish history books as Ireland's worst traitor for collaborating with the Normans. MacMurrough was said to be so vicious a warrior that he severed the heads of his victims and tore at the flesh of particularly hated victims with his teeth.

With President George H. W. Bush having led the United States in the Persian Gulf War and his son President George W. Bush declaring war on Iraq in search of nonexistent weapons of mass destruction, many might ponder how much of that ruthless warlord blood surges through the veins of the Bush dynasty.

The pathway to the White House for the Bush dynasty may have begun in 1918 when George H. W. Bush's father, Prescott Bush Sr., stole the Apache leader Geronimo's skull for the Skull and Bones secret society at Yale. All the connections he made through this elite brotherhood no doubt paid off in many ways.

George H. W. Bush's maternal grandfather, George Herbert "Bert" Walker, moved his St. Louis banking and investment firm to the prestigious address of 1 Wall Street in the early 1920s and was one of Hitler's most powerful financial supporters. In 1934 Walker arranged to have his son-in-law Prescott Bush placed on the board of directors of Union Banking. About the same time, Walker took over the North American offices of the Hamburg-Amerika Line, which was smuggling German agents into the U.S. to bribe politicians to see things Hitler's way. Just prior to the Nazi invasion of Poland in September 1939 ignited World War II, Prescott Bush's investment firm arranged for Hitler's Luftwaffe to obtain tetraethyl lead for their airplanes.

A great source of revenue for Bush was terminated in 1942 when three firms with which he was associated were seized under the Trading with the Enemy Act. All of the shares of Union Banking were seized, and major sections of other companies were confiscated when it was determined that they were being operated on behalf of Nazi Germany. One of Bert Walker's employees had been a double agent for Naval Intelligence and had blown the whistle on the shipping company's deals with the Nazis. William S. Farish, one of Prescott Bush's partners in business deals with Adolph Hitler, was grilled so intensely by the Senate about his Nazi dealings that he collapsed and died on November 29, 1942.

Seeing the handwriting on the wall, eighteen-year-old George H. W. Bush gave up his plans to enter Yale and entered flight school in October 1942, perhaps in an effort to salvage the family's honor, for he was quite aware that his father was under investigation for running Nazi front groups in the United States. The youngest pilot in the Navy, Bush was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and returned from World War II a hero, having once bailed out of his torpedo bomber over the Pacific when it was hit by Japanese antiaircraft fire. (Years later Chester Mierzejewski, a turret gunner on bomber flying near Bush's plane, claimed to have had an unobstructed view of the incident and stated that Bush's aircraft was never on fire and that Bush never attempted a water landing, which was standard procedure and which would have given his crew, Jack Delaney and Ted White, a chance to survive.)

After the war Bush entered Yale and in 1948 became a member of Skull and Bones. By 1955, he had formed Zapata Petroleum with the Liedtke brothers, Hugh and Bill, then bought them out and set up Permago, a Mexican drilling operation, through a front man to hide his ownership. Unfortunately for Bush's go-between, he was convicted of defrauding the Mexican government and fined $58 million.

Some investigators are convinced that Bush spent part of 1960 and 1961 in Miami organizing anti-Castro Cubans on behalf of the CIA. Agency-military liaison Fletcher Prouty has said that he delivered three navy ships for use in the Bay of Pigs invasion to a CIA agent named George Bush, who subsequently named the vessels the *Barbara*, the *Houston*, and the *Zapata*.

Many researchers place Bush in Texas when John F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963. In 1998 *The Nation* quoted a memo from J. Edgar Hoover that said “Mr. George Bush of the CIA” was briefed on November 23 about the reaction of anti-Castro Cubans to news of the assassination. Bush admitted that he was in Texas at the time but said that he couldn’t recall exactly where, and he stated firmly that Hoover must have been referring to “another” George Bush.

Some investigators state that after Bush became vice president and drug czar, cocaine flow into the United States increased by over 2,000 percent.

Bush entered politics in 1964, running for Congress as a Goldwater Republican and campaigning against the Civil Rights Act. He served two terms as a representative from Texas and ran twice unsuccessfully for the Senate. In 1971 President Richard Nixon named him ambassador to the United Nations. Being made Republican Party national chair in 1973, he brought the Heritage Groups Council, a group with Nazi sympathizers, into the party. After serving as chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in the People’s Republic of China, he was named CIA director by President Gerald Ford in 1976. Bush claimed that this is the first time that he had worked for the CIA and once again denied that he was “that George Bush” associated with either the Bay of Pigs disaster or the JFK investigation. While serving as CIA chief, Bush provided special training for the Saudi royal family’s palace guard.

Bush met with Manuel Noriega and guaranteed him a stipend of $100,000 a year, even though the Panamanian dictator was known to be working for Fidel Castro as well. It was at this time that Bush established Team B within the CIA, a group of neoconservative special agents and generals who could be counted on to deliver far more dire assessments of the Soviet threat than the agency’s intelligence specialists.

In 1978 Bush, Robert Mosbacher, and Jim Baker became partners in an oil firm, Arbusto Energy. In 1980 Bush was named Ronald Reagan’s vice-presidential candidate. Mosbacher, as chief fund-raiser for Bush, developed a millionaires’ club of 250 contributors, each of whom was assessed $100,000 for membership fees. In 1981 the Reagan-Bush team was inaugurated.

Some investigators state that after Bush became vice president and drug czar, cocaine flow into the United States increased by over 2,000 percent. Through the militarization of a phony drug war, the researchers claim, Bush declared war on both the American people and the Bill of Rights.

In 1988 Bush campaigned for the presidency and assigned Stuart Spencer to improve the image of his running mate, Dan Quayle, who always seemed to be suffering from “foot in mouth disease.” A drug dealer who claimed to have sold marijuana to Quayle was put in solitary confinement by the head of federal prisons.

In the midst of a heated presidential campaign, Bush had to contend with the uncomfortable circumstances of his son Neil getting caught up in the savings and loan scandal. Neil’s Silverado Savings and Loan in Denver was shut down after receiving 126 cease and desist orders in four years at a taxpayer cost of $1 billion.

Political pressure was placed on Bush to disassociate himself from the GOP Coalition of America after many of the leaders were accused of anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial. Fred Malek, a former Nixon aide, was asked to leave the presidential campaign when it was revealed that he was compiling a list of Jews in the Labor Department and investigating a possible "Jewish cabal" on orders from former president Nixon. Bush's campaign broadcast the offensive Willie Horton political ad, which suggested that Bush's opponent, Michael Dukakis, would be soft on rapists, drug pushers, and child molesters.

In 1989 Bush was inaugurated as the forty-first president of the United States. He denied knowing that Noriega was a drug dealer and authorized CIA support to the dictator's opposition, thereby providing Noriega with an opportunity to annul Panama's elections. In Operation Just Cause, Bush sent troops to Panama with orders to overthrow the corrupt regime. Noriega was brought back to the United States to stand trial as a drug trafficker. Convicted in 1992, Noriega was imprisoned until his death in 2017.

Bush also claimed executive privilege to escape testifying in the Oliver North trial, thereby becoming the first U.S. president to seal his former activities as a vice president. William Casey, CIA director during the Reagan-Bush administration, died two days before he was to testify. Banker Edmond J. Safra, whose banks had been used for laundering money for the Iran-Contra affair, died mysteriously when a fire swept through his Monaco penthouse apartment.

Bush signed the savings and loan bailout bill, and in 1990, federal regulators gave Neil Bush a seemingly impossible mild penalty, overlooking the fact that he, as Silverado's director, voted to approve over $100 million in loans to his partners. Meanwhile, Bush's son Jeb convinced the federal government to pay off the $4 million he owed to a failed Florida thrift. George's brother Jonathan's brokerage firm was fined in two states for violations and barred in Massachusetts.

In August 1990, Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, and Bush was determined to turn the dictator of Iraq away from the oil fields and keep him from obtaining an even stronger control of world oil markets. Osama bin Laden urged the Saudi royal family to fight Hussein on their own and to raise a mighty Arab army. Already uncertain of bin Laden's motives, the Saudi royals requested that the United States assume the task of driving Hussein's million-man army back to Iraq. Bush received UN approval to free Kuwait, and the 425,000 American troops were joined by 118,000 soldiers from allied nations. After several weeks of air and missile strikes, the hundred-hour land battle called Desert Storm turned Hussein's conquest of Kuwait into a rapid defeat.

Conspiracy theorists believe that in fact Bush and the leaders of Kuwait tricked former ally Hussein into attacking Kuwait so Bush could declare war under a UN mandate, strengthen the UN, and hike up petroleum prices in order to protect his own oil investments.

In 1992 Bush lost his run for a second presidential term to Bill Clinton. After a time, Bush became an adviser to the powerful Washington-based investment firm known as the Carlyle Group. Among his duties, Bush set about strengthening Carlyle's defense ties to the Saudi royal family. Bush visited the bin Laden family compound and solicited their investment in the Carlyle Group.

In 1993 the first attack on the World Trade Center in New York occurred. Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda have been linked to the initial bombing of the WTC, as well as to the destruction of the WTC and the attack on the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

With all the theories later accusing the George W. Bush administration of having known in advance that the September 11 attacks would occur, it only throws fuel on the fire to learn that as the World Trade Center was collapsing and thousands of lives were being lost, the news interrupted a Carlyle business meeting that was being held at the Ritz-Carlton in New York. Attending that conference was former president George H. W. Bush and a brother of Osama bin Laden, a fellow Carlyle investor. Neither claimed to have any advance information about the attacks on the World Trade Center or the Pentagon.

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GEORGE W. BUSH AND THE MISSING WMDs

Conspiracy theorists maintain that George W. Bush's invasion of Iraq was not about pursuing a war on terror, but about securing oil fields and obeying the directives of the New World Order.

In March 2004 President George W. Bush prepared a set of slides that he thought would make for a hilarious spoof at the annual dinner of the Radio and Television Correspondents' Association. The photographs showed him in the Oval Office searching for the weapons of mass destruction that had not been found in Iraq. Bush peered under the desk, behind curtains, looking in vain for the WMDs. As the audience roared in laughter, the president read such captions as, "Those weapons of mass destruction have to be somewhere. Nope, not here. Maybe under here?

Millions of Americans fail to find anything funny about the grim fact that President Bush led the United States and its allies into war on the basis of "faulty intelligence" about a supposed link between al-Qaeda and Saddam Hussein and about Hussein's alleged willingness to use weapons of mass destruction on his Mideast enemies unless the United States ousted him. And there is definitely nothing humorous about thousands of Americans in the military services killed or wounded—or the tens of thousands of Iraqis who have died and the thousands of men, women, and children severely wounded.

President George W. Bush (right) after landing on the USS Abraham Lincoln in 2003, when he declared "mission accomplished" in driving the Iraqis out of Kuwait.

Conspiracy theorists state that they knew all along that Bush was absolutely correct when he insisted that Hussein *had* chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction in Iraq—because it was the U.S. government that gave Hussein both the technology and the means to acquire as many WMDs as he thought he needed to maintain his dictatorship. Once Hussein had received those terrible weapons from the U.S., he used them effectively and mercilessly against the Kurds in Iraq's war with Iran. In the Anfal campaign in the late 1980s, as many as 150,000 Kurds were shot or killed in poison-gas attacks. In March 1988 a chemical weapons attack on the town of Halabja killed an estimated 5,000. To repress a Shiite rebellion in southern Iraq in 1991, Saddam's elite troops are thought to have killed at least 150,000. In each of these mass murders, the U.S. government chose to look the other way.

There are unlikely to be any theorists who doubt that Saddam Hussein was a ruthless, cruel tyrant, a megalomaniacal dictator who believed that he was the reincarnation of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of ancient Babylon, or that he committed horrific crimes against the Kurds, Iranians, Kuwaitis, and his own Iraqi people. But it should not be forgotten that when Hussein was committing his most heinous crimes, the U.S. government was supporting him materially and politically.

Many researchers will not be shaken from their belief that George W. Bush's insistence that the U.S. go to war with Iraq is all about nothing but oil and that GWB is only following up on the master plan devised by his father, former President George H.W. Bush (GHWB). Here, according to numerous conspiracy theorists, is a timeline of the New World Order of the Bush dynasty and their links with the Saudi royal family and the bin Laden family in the oil business.

1942: The U.S. Congress seizes the Bush family's banking assets by enforcing the Trading with the Enemy Act. Prescott Bush and his father-in-law George Herbert Walker made their fortunes supplying Nazi Germany and the other Axis nations with money, steel, ships, munitions, and formulas for synthetic gas.

1953: GHWB, a World War II hero and 1948 graduate from Yale in the Skull and Bones fraternity, becomes an owner of Zapata Off-shore Oil, which controls a large fleet of oil tankers off the coast of Kuwait.

1968: George W. Bush (GWB) joins the Texas Air National Guard, exempting him from duty in Vietnam, and becomes friends with Jim Bath, a former air force pilot. In that same year, GWB joins Skull and Bones at Yale.

1976: GHWB is named director of the CIA by President Gerald Ford. During his tenure Bush works to cement relations with the Saudi royal family, and he privatizes some CIA assets. GWB's friend Jim Bath, recruited for the CIA by GHWB, enters into a trust agreement with Salem bin Laden, older brother to Osama, which enables Bath to act as the bin Laden family's financial representative in the United States Later, Bath also represented Khalid bin Mahfouz, a member of Saudi Arabia's preeminent banking family, owners of the National Commercial Bank, the bank favored by the Saudi royal family.

1978: GWB starts an oil company in Texas called Arbusto 78. Jim Bath invests well over $1 million from Salem bin Laden and Khalid bin Mahfouz in Bush's fledgling company.

1987: GWB's oil companies fail, but Harken Energy, a company that has absorbed them, receives a $25 million stock offering underwritten by Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), a Middle East banking concern.

1989: As the forty-first president of the United States, GHWB authorizes a top-secret directive that orders closer ties with Iraq and provides $1 billion in new aid for Saddam Hussein. GWB assembles a group of partners who purchase the Texas Rangers baseball franchise.

1990: Bahrain grants exclusive offshore drilling rights to Harken Oil. GWB sells two-thirds of his Harken stock at top dollar for $850,000 but fails to make a report to the Securities Exchange Commission until March 1991. One week after Bush's coup on the market, Harken stock plummets 60 percent. Bush pays off his bank loan for the Texas Rangers. In

August, with the help of the leaders of Kuwait, Saddam Hussein is tricked into invading that country by GHWB. Zapata Oil's slant drilling from Kuwait is invading Iraqi territory, and Bush does not want Hussein to control world oil markets. The U.S. ambassador assures Hussein that America is neutral in the battle over oil drilling rights between Iraq and Kuwait. Then, after the invasion, GHWB declares that the world would suffer if all the world's oil reserves fell into the hands of Saddam Hussein. GWB is asked to serve on the board of directors of Caterair, a company supported by the Carlyle Group, a powerful investment group with strong ties to the bin Laden family.

1991: GHWB is able to declare the Gulf War under a UN mandate, strengthen the UN, and hike up oil prices. GHWB compares Hussein to Hitler but stops short of toppling the dictator's regime. Hussein agrees to destroy all chemical and biological weapons. John Sununu, former aide to the White House chief of staff, leaves the Bush administration to work for BCCI. George W. Bush spends three nights in a Houston hotel so he can claim Texas residency.

1992: The first of Harken Energy's wells off Bahrain comes in dry. GHWB loses the presidential election to Bill Clinton but becomes an adviser to the Carlyle Group and continues his ties to the bin Laden family. BCCI, which bailed out George W. Bush's oil company failures, is exposed as massive international criminal enterprise, laundering money for Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega, Hussein, many terrorist leaders, and the Medellin drug cartel.

1994: GWB is elected governor of Texas.

1998: GWB becomes the first governor in Texas history to be elected to consecutive four-year terms.

1999: GWB executes his ninety-ninth prisoner and announces that he will run for president of the United States.

2000: Democrat Al Gore receives more popular votes than George W. Bush, but the U.S. Supreme Court declares GWB the victor in spite of a public outcry about voting irregularities.

September 11, 2001: The terrible tragedies of the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York City, the attack on the Pentagon, the hijacking of airliners, and the loss of nearly three thousand lives changes America forever. GHWB is in a business meeting with one of Osama bin Laden's brothers at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Washington, D.C. when the attacks occur. Soon after the attacks, GWB and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld begin focusing on Iraq and planning an invasion to oust Saddam Hussein.

January 29, 2002: GWB makes his famous "Axis of Evil" speech in which he links Iraq, Iran, and North Korea and suggests that the clouds of war might be forming. Some theorists note that in addition to being "evil," the three nations mentioned are, interestingly, also great oil producers.

January 31, 2002: The head of the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency reports that Iraq has cooperated fully and that there are no weapons of biological and chemical mass destruction.

March 2002: The Bush administration begins to raise publicly the possibility of engaging Iraq. About March 14 Britain's chief foreign policy adviser, David Manning, meets with U.S. national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, who expresses gratitude for the UK's support in bringing about regime change in Iraq and assures him that it will be very carefully done.

April 2002: British prime minister Tony Blair meets with Bush at the ranch near Crawford, Texas, and gives GWB a conditional commitment to support U.S. military action to remove Saddam Hussein.

Late May-early June 2002: U.S. and British forces begin a covert combination of air strikes and raids on Iraq. (The chief Allied air force commander, Lieutenant General Michael Moseley, revealed on June 27, 2005, that between June 2002 and March 2003, before the official declaration of war was made, U.S./British aircraft flew 21,736 sorties over the southern no-fly zone. Moseley reported 600 bombs dropped on 391 targets.)

July 2002: Hans von Sponeck, a UN humanitarian aid coordinator, returns from Iraq and says that all facilities the UN inspectors had previously destroyed are still disabled. Former UN inspector Scott Ritter conducts a personal media campaign to alert Americans that Iraq does not possess WMDs. Hans Blix, an expert nuclear weapons analyst, insists there are no WMDs and asks for just one more inspection to prove it. The *New York Times* reports that the CIA has no evidence that Iraq has any links to al-Qaeda or any weapons of mass destruction.

August 2002: U.S. forces quietly move heavy armor into the region and increase air strikes.

2003: GWB authorizes the invasion of Iraq in March. Although the intense bombing raids are called "shock and awe," the number of raids actually decreases after the "coalition of the willing" invades the nation.

June 2005: Michael Smith, the British reporter who broke the now infamous "Downing Street Leaks" that revealed the grand deception of the U.S. plans to use military force against Iraq over a year before declaring war, stated that he had further learned that on June 8, 2002, roughly one hundred U.S./British aircraft had engaged Iraq's major western air defense installation. The number of days per month in which allied warplanes attacked installations in Iraq went from six to nine between July and August 2002, then increased to thirteen from December to February 2003.

October 15, 2005: Richard Norton-Taylor writing in the *Guardian*, reported that on January 30, 2003, shortly before the invasion of Iraq, Bush told Blair that he intended to go beyond Iraq and target other countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, Iran, and North Korea. According to British international lawyer Philippe Sands, the memo was drawn up after a telephone conversation between the two heads of state by one of the prime minister's foreign policy advisers in Downing Street and delivered to the Foreign Office.

Conspiracy theorists insist that the war was never about weapons of mass destruction or an Iraqi link to al-Qaeda. The war was not even about regime change or removing Saddam Hussein from power. The United States simply feared that the world's largest oil reserves would fall into the control of anti-American, militant Islamists. Vice President Dick Cheney once remarked, "You've got to go where the oil is." Under the cover of fighting terrorism, removing an evil dictator from power, and making Iraq safe for democracy, the U.S. government could be viewed as a global savior, instead of an imperialist conqueror.

Noam Chomsky, professor of linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and author of *Hegemony or Survival: America's Quest for Global Dominance*, commented on July 7, 2005: "If the United States can maintain its control over Iraq, with the world's second largest known oil reserves that will enhance significantly its strategic power and influence over its major rivals in the tripolar world that has been taking shape for the past 30 years: U.S.-dominated North America, Europe, and Northeast Asia, linked to South and Southeast Asia economies."

In his June 28, 2005, speech, President George W. Bush tried once again to assure Americans that the invasion of Iraq was the right thing to do as a significant aspect of a "global war against terror." In reality, many theorists assert, the invasion of Iraq may have significantly increased the threat of terror, for many terrorists from all over the Muslim world have found in harassing the occupation forces in Iraq the perfect training ground for schooling in assassinations, kidnappings, car bombings, and a host of other ghastly techniques.

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THE BUSINESS PLOT

Decades before the military-industrial complex was charged with assassinating JFK, a similar-seeming cabal planned to get rid of FDR.

Military officers who try to blow the whistle on conspiracies involving the armed forces tend to come from the intelligence or special operations branches, like L. Fletcher Prouty. Smedley Butler was different. Over his 34 years in the Marine Corps, Smedley racked up more distinctions than any other Marine in history and saw action from the Spanish–American War to the Boxer Rebellion and World War I. Not only a famous war hero, he was also a veteran's advocate. This combination of attributes was likely what led to his being approached in 1933 by some men who thought he would be a popular choice to lead an army of veterans to overthrow the government.

As Butler later described, he had several meetings with a couple of members of the American Legion: Bob Doyle and Gerald MacGuire. They initially wanted him to speak at their convention, but soon, it became clear that they were assessing how open Butler would be to helping them take part in a coup. The alleged conspirators were mostly business leaders and bankers (including George H. W. Bush's father, Prescott Bush) who were upset by what they saw as the antibusiness agenda of the just-elected president Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Their plan involved allowing FDR to stay on in name only while an unelected dictator (the "Secretary of General Affairs") ran the nation. Butler refused to participate and later testified to Congress about what became known as the Business Plot or Wall Street Putsch.

Major General Smedley Butler was a Medal of Honor recipient who had fought for the United States in every war from the Spanish–American War through World War I.

In 1935, Butler wrote the book *War Is a Racket*, whose critique of how the American military operates as the armed wing of corporate interests essentially defined the "military-industrial complex" 26 years before Dwight Eisenhower gave it a name.

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CATHARS

The Cathars were a secret society of Satanists who sought to destroy the medieval church in France.

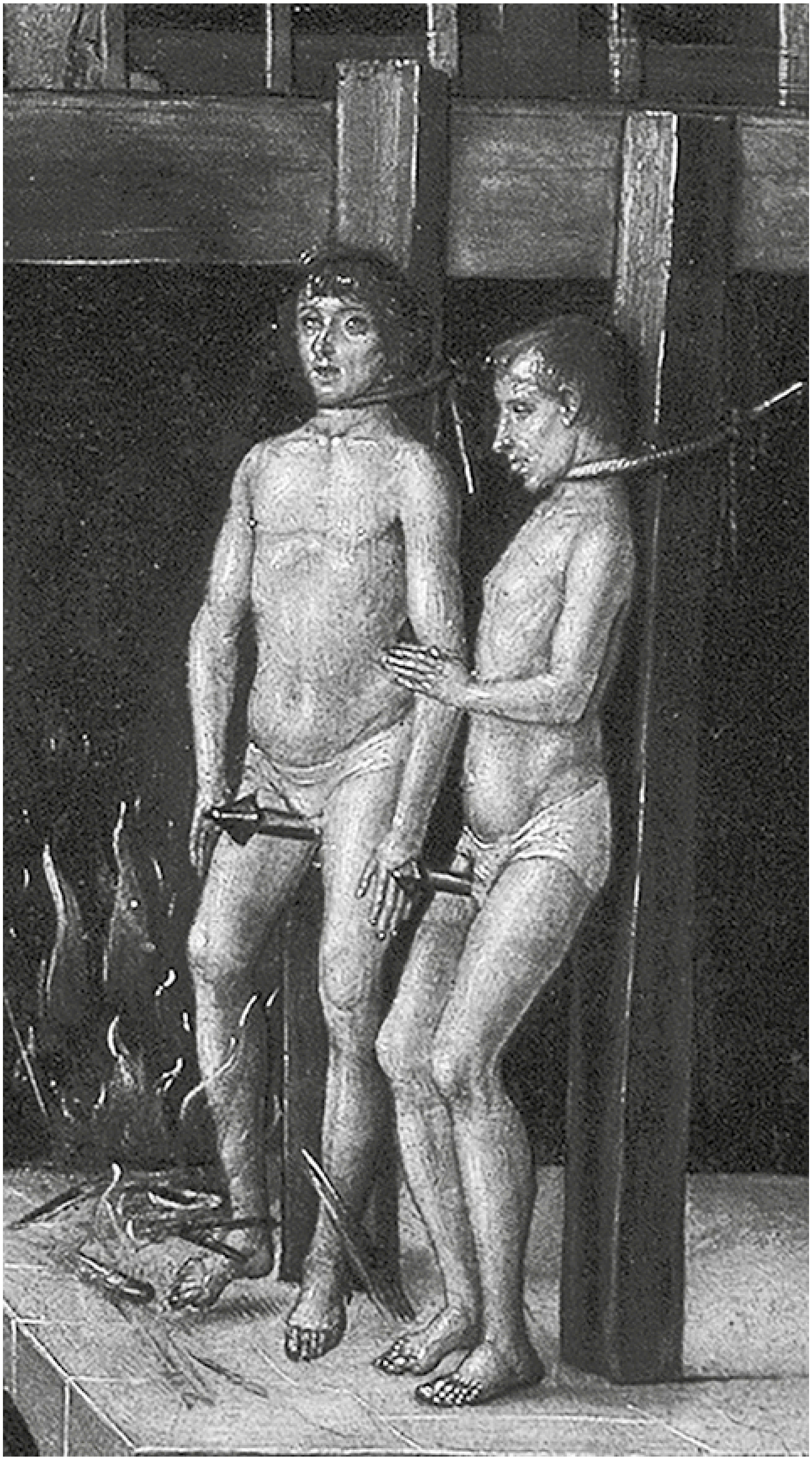
The Cathars, also known as the Albigensians, were largely centered in Albi, the town in the French province of Languedoc where an ecclesiastical Roman Catholic Church council condemned the group as heretics in 1208. Most Albigensian communities were sacked and then burned, destroying their records and libraries. For years, popular understanding of Cathar beliefs came from dubious testimony wrung out under extreme torture. Contemporary research now indicates that far from being the evil monsters that Pope Innocent III decreed should be exterminated, the Cathars were devout, chaste, tolerant Christian humanists who loathed the material excesses of the medieval church. Beliefs similar to theirs can be found in the Gnostic gospels, the Essenic teachings discovered at Qumran, and the Egyptian mystery schools. The Cathars called themselves the True Church of God, but they had no fixed, codified religious doctrine. Most of the few manuscripts that survived the flames of the Inquisition were written in Provençal, the old language of southern France, the rest in Latin.

Pope Innocent III and the church hierarchy were certainly troubled by the Cathars' rejection of many doctrinal tenets. But after first appearing in the 12th century, the Cathars were also gaining adherents through their criticism of the Church's frequently corrupt and amoral clergy. This likely led to the Church denouncing the Cathars as teaching witchcraft.

In fact, the Cathars were followers of Christ but simply had a broader theology than the one prescribed by Rome. They perceived Christ as a pure spirit that had descended from heaven on the instructions of the God of Good to liberate humankind from the world of matter. According to the Cathars, because Christ was pure spirit, he did not die on the cross and the teachings of the church were false. The Cathars rejected all Catholic sacraments and taught that the God of the Old Testament was the lord of matter, the prince of this world—designations that the Catholic Church reserved for Satan. Not only was the God revered by the church as the Creator really the devil, but the Cathars also instructed their followers that most of the patriarchs and prophets mentioned in the Old Testament were really demons. They also believed that it was Satan who created the material world after his expulsion from heaven when God the Father, taking pity on his once bright star Lucifer, allowed him seven days to see what he might create. The bodies of Adam and Eve were animated by fallen angels and directed by Satan to beget children who would follow the ways of the serpent.

To counter the lust of the flesh inspired by the devil, the Cathars preached chastity, vegetarianism, and nonviolence. They believed in a progressive doctrine of reincarnation, with the spirits of animals evolving into humans. In their view, it was a dualistic universe, with good and evil having equal strength, and they considered their time in the world as a struggle to resist Satan’s power.

In 1208 Innocent III declared the Cathars to be heretical and condemned the citizens of the Albigensian towns of Béziers, Perpignan, Narbonne, Toulouse, and Carcassonne to death as “enemies of the Church.” Simon de Montfort, an accomplished military leader, was appointed to conduct a crusade against the fellow Christians whom the pope had deemed a greater threat to Christianity than the Islamic warriors who fought the Crusaders. Although it took him nearly twenty years of warfare against the beleaguered Albigenses, de Montfort managed to exterminate 100,000 men, women, and children before he himself was killed during the second siege of Toulouse.



Two Cathars are shown here being tortured by the Catholic Church in this c. 1595 painting by artist Pedro Berruguete.

In 1244 Montségur, the last center of Albigensian resistance, fell, and hundreds of Cathars were burned at the stake. The headquarters of the Inquisition was now established in the once highly cultured city of Toulouse, and the few Cathars who had managed to escape death during the bloody decades of the crusade that had been launched against them were at the mercy of the relentless witch and heretic hunters. Some believe that the escaping Cathars smuggled out with them various treasures, ranging from banned Gospel manuscripts to possibly even the Holy Grail itself.

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CATTLE MUTILATIONS

Extraterrestrials are mutilating cattle and removing their tongues and sex organs in order to obtain enzymes to enable them to survive on Earth … or so some believe.

Starting in the 1970s, many ranchers in the Great Plains began reporting that many of their cattle were turning up dead, their corpses mutilated in strange ways that suggested sinister forces at work. Fingers were pointed at Satanists, the government (possibly using the cattle for top-secret weapons practice), and UFOs. Investigation after investigation was launched. But no culprits were found, even as the brutal phenomenon began spreading across the middle of America. This was further proof to many, particularly those already enraged by what they saw as government interference in the cattle industry, that the authorities were trying to cover something up.

According to most accounts of cattle mutilation, tracks or markings of a conventional nature, such as tire imprints or human or animal tracks, have never been found near a carcass; however, many farmers and ranchers have reported the indentations of a tripod nearby. Those factors, along with the numerous reports of UFOs or unmarked black helicopters in the vicinity prior to incidents, have pointed to extraterrestrial or government perpetrators.

In the opinion of many skeptical veterinarians, livestock association officials, forensic pathologists, chemists, and a host of county, state, and federal officers and agents, such alleged mutilations are simply the result of cattle dying from natural causes and then being "mutilated" by predators and scavengers.

UFO researchers reject the possibility that predators or scavengers could so neatly incise and remove select organs from their victims, not to mention fail to eat the rest of the corpse.

UFO researchers reject the possibility that predators or scavengers could so neatly incise and remove select organs from their victims, not to mention fail to eat the rest of the corpse.

The most prominent researcher of animal mutilations is Linda Moulton Howe, author of *Glimpses of Other Realities* (1998). Howe documented hundreds of abnormal, inexplicable deaths of animals, mostly cattle and horses on the open range—all of which exhibited bloodless excisions of eyes, organs, and genitals. When she began her research in 1979, Howe suspected that there was contamination in the environment, and that some government agency was secretly harvesting tissue and fluids for examination. Howe's early interviews were with ranchers and law enforcement officers, who reluctantly informed her of sightings of glowing disks in the vicinity of the mutilations. Some witnesses even told her of having seen nonhuman entities at the scene. Her continuing research has convinced her that alien experimentation with Earth's animals was a distinct possibility and possibly conducted by the same aliens abducting and probing humans.

About 1954, some UFO/conspiracy theorists assert, a shadow group within the U.S. government made a deal with extraterrestrial intelligences that permitted mutilation of animals and abductions of humans in exchange for advanced alien technology. Regarding the cattle mutilations, the aliens explained that their own evolutionary ascent had left their digestive systems severely dysfunctional. The extraterrestrials would best be able to sustain themselves on Earth by ingesting an enzyme, or hormonal secretion, most readily obtained from the tongues and throats of cattle.

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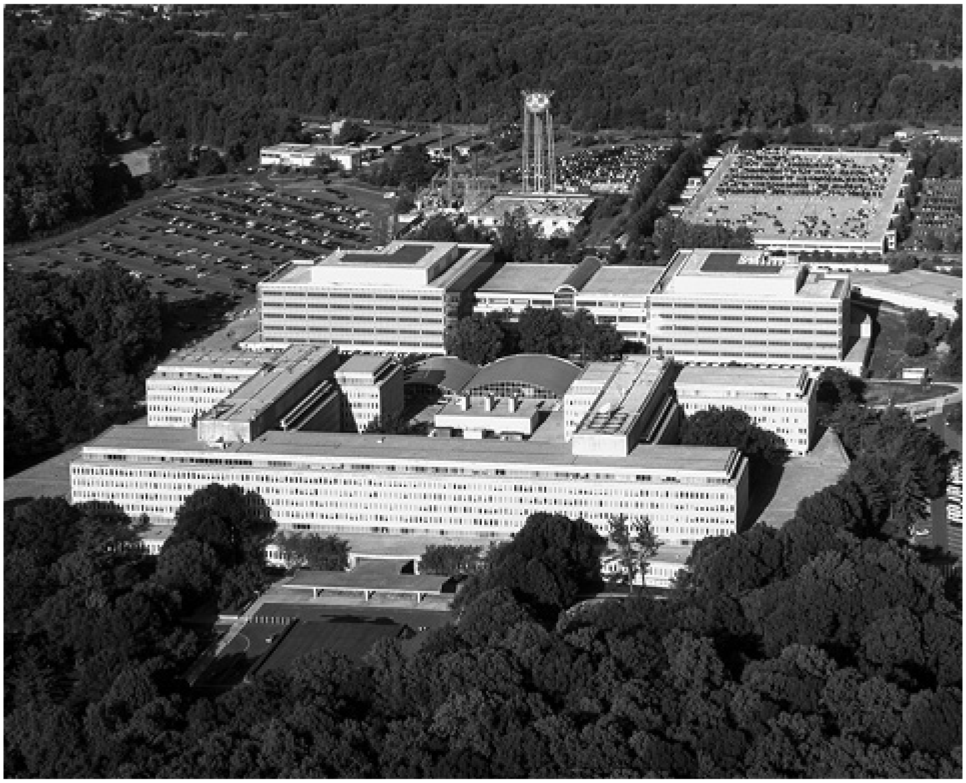
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Name almost any conspiracy and chances are you'll find that the CIA is involved in some way—and even if not, somebody will be dead certain that they were.

Only diehard supporters of the Bush administration were surprised when the CIA released classified reports revising its prewar intelligence assessments of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Any American who had a pulse clearly recalled the president telling the nation after the horror of September 11, 2001, that "intelligence reports" claimed that Iraq possessed large stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons and was attempting to acquire nuclear capability. CIA intelligence reports formed a main justification for the 2003 invasion of Iraq and validated the need for the United States to make a preemptive strike. According to Bob Woodward's book *Plan of Attack*, CIA director George Tenet told President Bush that finding WMD in Iraq would be a "slam dunk."

"The CIA has finally admitted that its WMD estimates were wrong," Representative Jane Harman of California, ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said in a statement to Reuters. She also called on CIA officials to conduct vigorous intelligence on Iran and North Korea, "where active WMD programs are known to exist."

Formed in 1947 by President Harry Truman, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) took over and expanded on the surreptitious work done by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) during World War II. Truman somewhat famously had said that he wanted essentially a newspaper that could provide him with useful and up-to-date information about what was really going on around the world. With that directive, the CIA was designed primarily to gather intelligence. Given that this was at the start of the Cold War, gathering intelligence largely meant stealing the Soviet Union's secrets and to combat attempts by their Soviet counterparts the KGB to do the same.



The extensive CIA headquarters facilities are located in Langley, Virginia.

Whatever it may have started out as, however, the CIA was quickly doing far more than gathering intelligence. This is not surprising, given its militarized roots in the OSS and its leader "Wild Bill" Donovan. In 1948, the purposefully blandly named Office of Policy Coordination was formed to direct covert actions. In rapid succession, the CIA was secretly changing the course of history through a series of shadow campaigns whose tools included everything from payoffs to assassination and whose goals were reshaping the world (eliminating popular leaders and installing puppet regimes was a favorite tactic) through secret and conspiratorial means.

Some of the CIA's more famous Cold War exploits include:

1948: Funding anti-Communist politicians in Italy and France, starting the CIA's dark, decades-long support of fascist elements in Europe.

1949: Helping British intelligence in attempt to topple Albania's communist government.

Late 1940s: According to a popular Russian conspiracy theory based on a most likely forged document (which bears some resemblance in style to *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*), the agency's first civilian director, Allen Dulles, concocted a plot to undermine the Soviet Union not long after World War II. The "Dulles Plan" was supposedly a long-running CIA effort to corrupt the USSR from within by encouraging drunkenness, drug addiction, and general immorality.

1953: Using paid street mobs to overthrow Iran's democratically elected leader Mohmmed Mosaddegh after he threatened to cut Western interests out of the country's oil business. Monarchy is restored, the secret police (trained by CIA) torture and assassinate political opponents, and the oil keeps flowing.

1954: Engineering a coup in Guatemala that used espionage, bombing, and propaganda to bring down the suspiciously leftist President Jacobo Arbenz who had expropriated land from the United Fruit Company (whose board members included CIA director John Foster Dulles).

1961: Failing miserably at first serious attempt to overthrow Cuba's Soviet-aligned leader Fidel Castro, with unsuccessful amphibious assault using anti-Castro Cuban irregulars at the Bay of Pigs. Trying to undercut or assassinate Castro for years afterward through Operation Mongoose.

1961: Collaborating with Belgian government to assassinate Patrice Lumumba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo's first elected prime minister.

1965: Following years of supporting anti-government rebels (psyops, air raids) assisting General Suharto's successful coup in Indonesia, which was followed by a savage CIA-backed repression campaign that massacred up to a million people. In later years, the CIA and its anti-Communist allies exported this "Jakarta Method" of butchery, torture, disappearances, and repression to Brazil and other countries around the world.

1967: Starting Phoenix Program in Vietnam, which marked thousands of suspected Vietcong guerrillas or civilian sympathizers for "neutralization" (i.e., imprisonment, torture, execution) by the South Vietnamese.

1973: Fomenting coup in Chile on the orders of President Richard Nixon. Socialist President Salvador Allende dies in the coup. His successor, dictator Augusto Pinochet, institutes a bloody reign of terror. Prior to the coup, Communists and left-wing government officials received anonymous postcards with the warning "Jakarta is coming."

1975: Funding and arming FNLA rebels in bloody Angolan civil war during which thousands die in proxy combat between the U.S. and USSR.

1979: Starting Operation Cyclone, which ultimately channeled over $2 billion in weapons and support to the Afghan mujahedeen fighting the Soviet occupation.

1981: Begins supporting the Nicaraguan Contra rebels with training, weaponry, funding, and apparently also active sabotage. Results in the Boland Amendments, which technically limited the CIA's ability to conduct offensive campaigns around the world.

These are just some of the CIA's better-known campaigns of subterfuge. Who knows how many more are still hidden in the classified archives or have had their records disappeared in the Agency's many "burn boxes"?

Conspiracy researchers have some ideas. High among them are suspicions that the CIA—despite being technically not allowed to operate on American soil—was involved in various covert actions through the 1960s and '70s to subvert and destroy any organization or person seen by the powers that be as dangerous. These anti-democratic operations may have included illegal surveillance of American citizens, as well as the assassinations of Robert Kennedy, John F. Kennedy, Jr., Martin Luther King, Jr., and several Black Panthers.

The agency's freewheeling violence overseas was an open secret for years. In 1975, *New York Times* reporter Clifton Daniel attended a private luncheon with President Gerald Ford, who said that some CIA secrets were so dark that they would destroy the image of the U.S. Asked for an example, Ford matter-of-factly said, "like assassinations," before quickly adding, "That's off the record!" Such statements underscored what conspiracy theorists already believed to be obviously true.

It is also believed in some corners that the CIA could even be a criminal enterprise. Some of the hundreds of billions of dollars which have funded Agency's secret wars and black operations may have been secured through illicit means, particularly the drug trade. American military involvement in Vietnam and Afghanistan, not to mention the invasion of Panama, could have been directed at least in part to secure the CIA a controlling interest in the flow of illicit drugs, which could then be directed towards the CIA's secret programs. It has been argued that Air America (a CIA-operated front airline in Laos) flew opium shipments during the Vietnam War and also that the introduction of crack cocaine into America was actually a CIA operation.

Many other CIA-linked conspiracy theories focus on their conducting secret chemical and biological experiments on the American public for decades. As many as half a million people have served as guinea pigs for the government without their knowledge. Since 1998, conspiracy theorists have accused the secret government of spraying "chemtrails" across U.S. skies, permitting unidentified chemicals to fall on the population.

The CIA has given conspiracy theorists ample reason to suspect them of being involved in just about every kind of sinister skullduggery imaginable and serving as the dark underbelly of the shadow government. In his book *Dirty Truths: Reflections on Politics, Media, Ideology, Conspiracy, Ethnic Life, and Class Power*, Michael Parenti notes that the CIA is by definition conspiratorial. The CIA may use "covert actions and secret plans, many of which are of the most unsavory kind. What are covert actions if not conspiracies?"

After the end of the Cold War, the CIA had something of an identity crisis without the Soviet Union to wage cover war against. But then came 9/11. The CIA pivoted swiftly to not just studying but working to eliminate al-Qaeda and other terror networks. The CIA being the CIA, they operated in the shadows and generally without much oversight. Rather than undermining governments, they have turned into more of a paramilitary organization that sees its battlefield as the entire world.

The CIA's methods—recruiting local militias, psyops, using "black site" prisons to torture and interrogate suspects they snatch off the street at will, targeting anyone they deem a terrorist or terrorist sympathizer with a fatal drone strike—and low visibility makes them something of a perfect tool for leaders who are unenthusiastic about accountability and would prefer their dirty deeds to continue being done in the dark.

Leftist political scientist, cultural critic, and historian Michael Parenti has written that the CIA is conspiratorial at its core, an organization not to be trusted.

The psychologist Mark Stern observes that those in the Christian Identity movement believe that they are the true representatives of how Christianity should have been from the beginning.

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CHRISTIAN IDENTITY

Viewing Anglo-Saxon and Nordic people as the true chosen people, Christian Identity's members believe Christ will not return until the world has been cleansed of Satan's children.

One of the stranger religious movements of the 19th century was Anglo-Israelism, which claimed that the real descendants of the tribes of Israel were not Jews but in fact white Northern Europeans. Many others have tried to latch onto the anti-Semitic "Lost Tribes" idea since then, including William K. Cameron, who, while editing Henry Ford's *Dearborn Independent* newspaper, helped popularize *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. One of the more explicitly racist of these is Christian Identity.

A subset of fundamentalist Christian churches scattered mostly in rural areas (Appalachia, the Ozarks, Oregon), Christian Identity has taught its few but fervent followers that not only are white Nordic people the chosen ones, but that Jews are the children of Satan. According to Christian Identity expert Michael Barkun, this movement—which attracted members of the Ku Klux Klan as well as neo-Nazi terror groups like The Order—is the "glue" that holds the racist right together.

The psychologist Mark Stern observes that those in the Christian Identity movement believe that they are the true representatives of how Christianity should have been from the beginning. Stern comments that the many groups that are part of the movement reject the label of "cult," preferring to call themselves "holiness groups."

Among current groups who follow the principles of Christian Identity are the American Nazi Party, Aryan Nations, Church of Jesus Christ Christian, National Association for the Advancement of White People, Scriptures for America, and White Separatist Banner. Essentially apocalyptic groups, most of their leaders see Armageddon, the final battle between good and evil, Jesus and Satan, right around the corner.

Although Christian Identity groups insist that they do not promote violence of any kind, many of their leaders flatly state that Christ cannot return until the world has been cleansed of influences they deem anti-Christian, including Jews, homosexuals, and those who mix races.

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CHURCH OF THE LAMB OF GOD

Murderous Mormon sects have conducted a bloody, secret religious war, wreaking vengeance on individuals judged wayward in the eyes of God.

Mormons practiced polygamy until 1890. At the time when Utah was trying to become a state, the church decided to discontinue the practice of multiple wives. However, a number of groups broke off from the original Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and established their own versions of Mormonism.

One such group of fundamentalists settled in Chihuahua, Mexico, and titled themselves "Colonia Juárez." Ervil LeBaron was reared in this colony of polygamists, the son of a farmer excommunicated from the mainstream faith in 1924 because of his bizarre beliefs and teachings. Ervil and his six brothers were, in turn, excommunicated in 1944.

Family in-fighting led Ervil to start his own polygamist sect, the Church of the Lamb of God. Eventually marrying 13 women and siring over 50 children, Ervil declared himself to be God's prophet on Earth and assumed the title of the "One Mighty and Strong."

Ervil would eventually be implicated in a web of murders, often of rivals, and generally carried out by teams of loyal assassins. Nobody was safe from the man later nicknamed the "Mormon Manson." Ervil was so ruthless that he had his pregnant daughter killed for disagreeing with him and so frightened some of the men he trained to kill for him that they fled to Texas rather than face his wrath after failing a mission. None of this was a problem theologically, since Ervil wrote most of the sect's literature and in so doing declared that the Mormon doctrine of blood atonement meant he could put sinners to death. Furthermore, he envisioned that the One Mighty and Strong had supremacy over all Mormons.

As part of Ervil's war to exterminate his rivals, he murdered his brother Joel in 1972; led a commando-style raid that firebombed the Mormon community of Los Molinas in Mexico, killing two; and assassinated Dr. Rulon Allred, leader of Utah's largest polygamist sect, in 1977. Ervil was arrested by Mexican police in 1979, extradited to Utah, and tried and convicted for a machine-gun attack on his brother Verlan and the murder of Allred.

Even though Ervil died in his cell at Utah State Prison in 1981, the killings continued. While imprisoned, Ervil had written up a book of "New Covenants" that included a blueprint of death for "traitors." Many of the people on the list were killed in the years that followed.

It has been estimated that in Mexico and the southwestern U.S., there are about are thirty thousand people in ten groups like Ervil LeBaron's. These groups often engage in power struggles to take over one another's financial bases. If they kill rival prophets, then a lot of the deceased's' followers are likely to come to them. Some of the groups are quite wealthy. Some, like the remains of Ervil's, are destitute. But they are all very secretive, very close.

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CLINTON BODY COUNT

Some conspiracy theorists say that as many as a hundred unfortunate individuals paid a tragic price for getting on the wrong side of the Clinton administration.

Hillary and Bill Clinton, shown here in a 2014 photo, have long been the subject of conspiracy speculation, including ones about their being involved in murder plots against political opponents.

A number of conspiracy theorists and professional Clinton watchers have determined that people who appear to have displeased Bill and Hillary Clinton tend to show up dead. Estimates of a body count have ranged anywhere from the dozens to over a hundred.

As with all such lists we include in this encyclopedia, we add our disclaimer that there could be very easily explained reasons for these deaths (long-term illness, suicide, killed in the line of duty). Conspiracy researchers insist that the CIA and other secret government agencies have ways to make a murder appear due to natural causes or accident. Some of these methods (like deadly and untraceable poison, injecting cancer cells) are designed to avoid detection in autopsies and postmortem examinations.

Among those associates, friends, or foes of Bill or Hillary Clinton who met what many investigators believe to have been a "convenient" or "highly coincidental" death are the following:

Susan Coleman, February 15, 1977: Susan Coleman allegedly had an affair with Clinton when he was a law professor in Arkansas. Her death from a gunshot wound to the back of the head was ruled a suicide. No autopsy was performed, and persistent rumors maintain that Coleman was nearly eight months pregnant with Clinton's child.

Paul Tully, September 24, 1992: Tully, Democratic National Committee political director, was found dead in a hotel room in Little Rock, Arkansas, of unknown causes.

Paula Gober, December 9, 1992: Gober was Clinton's speech interpreter for the deaf, and she traveled extensively with him until her death. She was killed in a one-car accident with no known witnesses.

John Wilson, May 18, 1993: Former Washington, D.C., council member John Wilson claimed to have important information on the Whitewater scandal. He was found dead from suicide by hanging.

Paul Wilcher, June 22, 1993: At the time of his death, Wilcher, an attorney, was investigating drug smuggling and gunrunning out of Arkansas and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms assault on the Branch Davidians at Waco, Texas. Wilcher was found dead on a toilet seat in his Washington, D.C., apartment.

Vincent Foster, July 21, 1993: Foster, White House counsel and Hillary Clinton's longtime friend, was found dead in a public park of a supposed suicide by gunshot.

Jon Parnell Walker, August 15, 1993: A Whitewater investigator for Resolution Trust Corporation, Walker mysteriously fell to his death from an apartment balcony.

Jerry Luther Parks, September 26, 1993: Parks, head of Clinton's gubernatorial security team in Little Rock, was shot three times in his car at a deserted intersection.

Ed Willey, November 1993: A Clinton fund raiser, Ed Willey was the husband of Kathleen Willey, who claimed to have been groped by Clinton in the Oval Office. Willey was found dead of a gunshot wound to the head in the woods near his Virginia home. His death was ruled a suicide.

Gandy Baugh, January 8, 1994: Baugh represented Clinton's pal Dan Lasater, a convicted drug distributor, in a case concerning financial misconduct. Baugh allegedly committed suicide.

Herschel Friday, March 1, 1994: Attorney and Clinton fund-raiser Herschel Friday, seventy-three, died when he was landing his plane on a poorly lighted airfield. According to various accounts, the plane suddenly crashed and exploded.

Kathy Ferguson, May 1994: The ex-wife of Arkansas state trooper Danny Ferguson, who is said to have escorted Paula Corbin Jones to the hotel room for her alleged sexual harassment by then-governor Clinton, Kathy Ferguson died of an alleged gunshot suicide in her living room.

Bill Shelton, June 1994: Bill Shelton, an Arkansas police officer and fiancé of Kathy Ferguson, was found dead of a gunshot wound at Kathy's gravesite. His death was ruled a suicide, supposedly brought on by grief over his fiancée's taking her own life. Fellow officers reported that Shelton was extremely dissatisfied over the manner in which Kathy's death was investigated.

Barbara Wise, January 29, 1996: Barbara Wise, a Commerce Department staff member, was found dead, partially nude, in her locked office at the Department of Commerce.

Ron Brown, April 3, 1996: Ron Brown, Clinton's secretary of commerce and former Democratic National Committee chairman, died with thirty-four other people in an airplane crash in the Croatian mountains. A pathologist reported finding a hole resembling a bullet wound in the top of Brown's skull.

Charles Meissner, April 3, 1996: Assistant Secretary of Commerce for International Economic Policy Meissner died in the same plane crash as Ron Brown.

Mary Mahoney, July 1997: A former White House intern working as an assistant manager at a Georgetown Starbucks, Mahoney was shot five times with bullets from two different guns. Her two co-workers were taken to a back room and killed.

Sandy Hume, February 22, 1998: The twenty-eight-year-old son of well-known journalist Brit Hume was found dead in his Arlington, Virginia apartment, an apparent suicide. He had just joined the staff of Fox TV news and had been a reporter for *The Hill* magazine.

James McDougal, March 8, 1998: President Clinton's convicted Whitewater partner died of an apparent heart attack while in solitary confinement, serving three-year sentence for bank fraud.

Christine M. Mirzayan, August 1, 1998: A Clinton intern who was about to go public with her story of sexual harassment at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Christine M. Mirzayan was shot dead as she entered a Georgetown Starbucks.

Eric Fox, March 1999: Fox, who had served on Air Force One, was discovered shot in the head after his car swerved off the road. His death was ruled an apparent suicide.

And one who got away.

Gary Johnson, June 26, 1992: An attorney who lived next door to Clinton paramour Gennifer Flowers, Gary Johnson had security videotapes of Clinton entering and leaving Flowers's apartment. Johnson was beaten and the incriminating tapes were taken from his apartment. Left for dead from a beating so severe that his spleen had to be removed, Johnson survived.

After Hillary Clinton became President Barack Obama's Secretary of State, conspiracy theorists began to see more Clinton-connected deaths that seemed mysterious and potentially caused by a desire to maintain secrecy. Two of the best-known names on this updated list are:

Seth Rich, July 10, 2017: The 27-year-old Democratic National Committee staff member was found shot to death near his Washington, D.C. home very early in the morning. While police believed it was the result of an attempted robbery, others doubted that (he still had his valuables on him) and thought he was gunned down for either angered the Clintons or maybe just knowing too much.

Jeffrey Epstein, August 10, 2019: Billionaire mega-donor to universities and philanthropies like the Clinton Foundation, Epstein was arrested in July on sex-trafficking charges. Believed to have molested numerous underage girls and suspected of forcing them to have sex with his wealthy and famous friends, Epstein was found dead by suicide in his jail cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in lower Manhattan. Given the list of names in Epstein's little black book who had supposedly flown on his plane (Bill Gates, Donald Trump, Bill Clinton), many conspiracy theorists believed that there were many who wanted him dead before he could testify.

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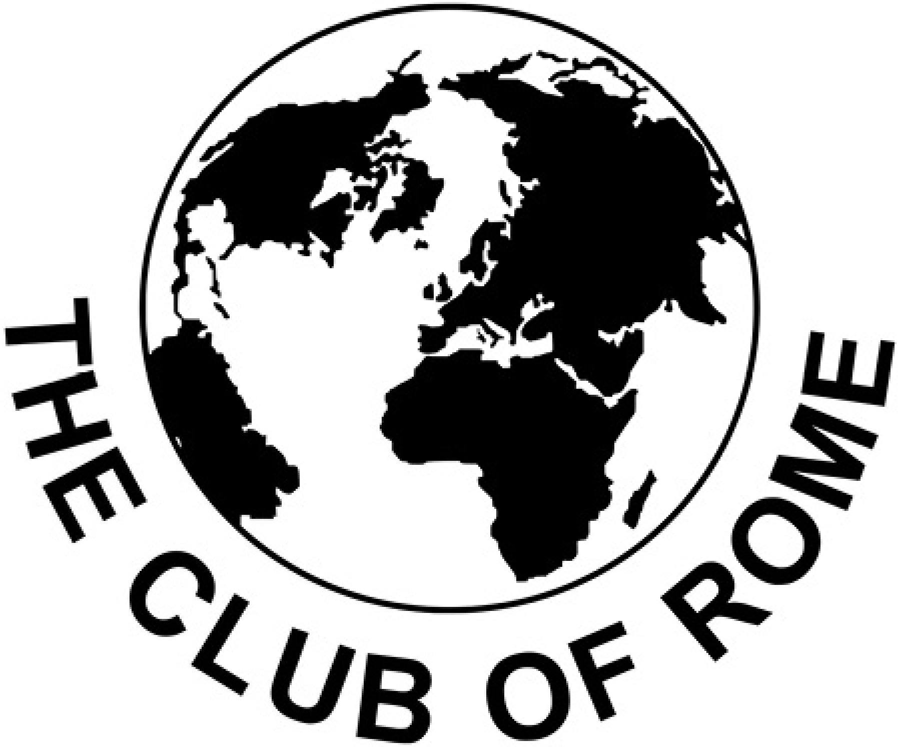
CLUB OF ROME

Can humanity survive without severely limiting its population growth? This influential think tank didn't think so, causing many to worry that secret plans were being put into place to reduce the size of the species.

In 1972, a select group calling themselves the Club of Rome published a book called *The Limits to Growth*. In this surprise bestseller, the authors argued that through their use of cutting-edge computer modeling, they had determined that if humanity did not change its then current trajectories of consumption and population growth, Earth would be unable to sustain the species' needs at some point later in the twenty-first century.



Founded in 1968 in Rome, Italy, and now based in Winterthur, Switzerland, the Club of Rome includes a mix of influential politicians, scientists, business leaders, economists, and former heads of state.

Critics called the book alarmist and argued that its methodology was flawed. They also pointed to the group itself—a suspiciously elitist and globe-spanning band of scientists, businesspeople, and politicians—as reason for concern about their ultimate goals. In his book *Conspirators' Hierarchy: The Story of the Committee of 300*, former MI-6 agent John Coleman described the Club of Rome as the "foreign-policy arm" of the top-secret "Committee of 300" whose One World Government plans included shrinking the human race and eliminating any leaders who disagreed with them. According to Coleman, the committee used the Club of Rome in their plot to control the world through the assassinations of public figures ranging from Italy's prime minister, Aldo Moro, to Pakistani general Zia ul Haq.

Some conspiracy theorists are convinced that the Club of Rome believes that if fewer people are around, they will be easier to dominate. One persistent idea about the group is that it exists as a purposefully bland-seeming front for a diabolical, eugenics-linked plot (pushed by everyone from Bill Gates to Planned Parenthood) to wipe out 90 percent of the world's population.

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COINTELPRO: THE FBI's COVERT WAR AGAINST AMERICA

Many believed the FBI stood for truth, justice, and the American way. But then Director J. Edgar Hoover gave his agents carte blanche to destroy anyone he saw as a threat.

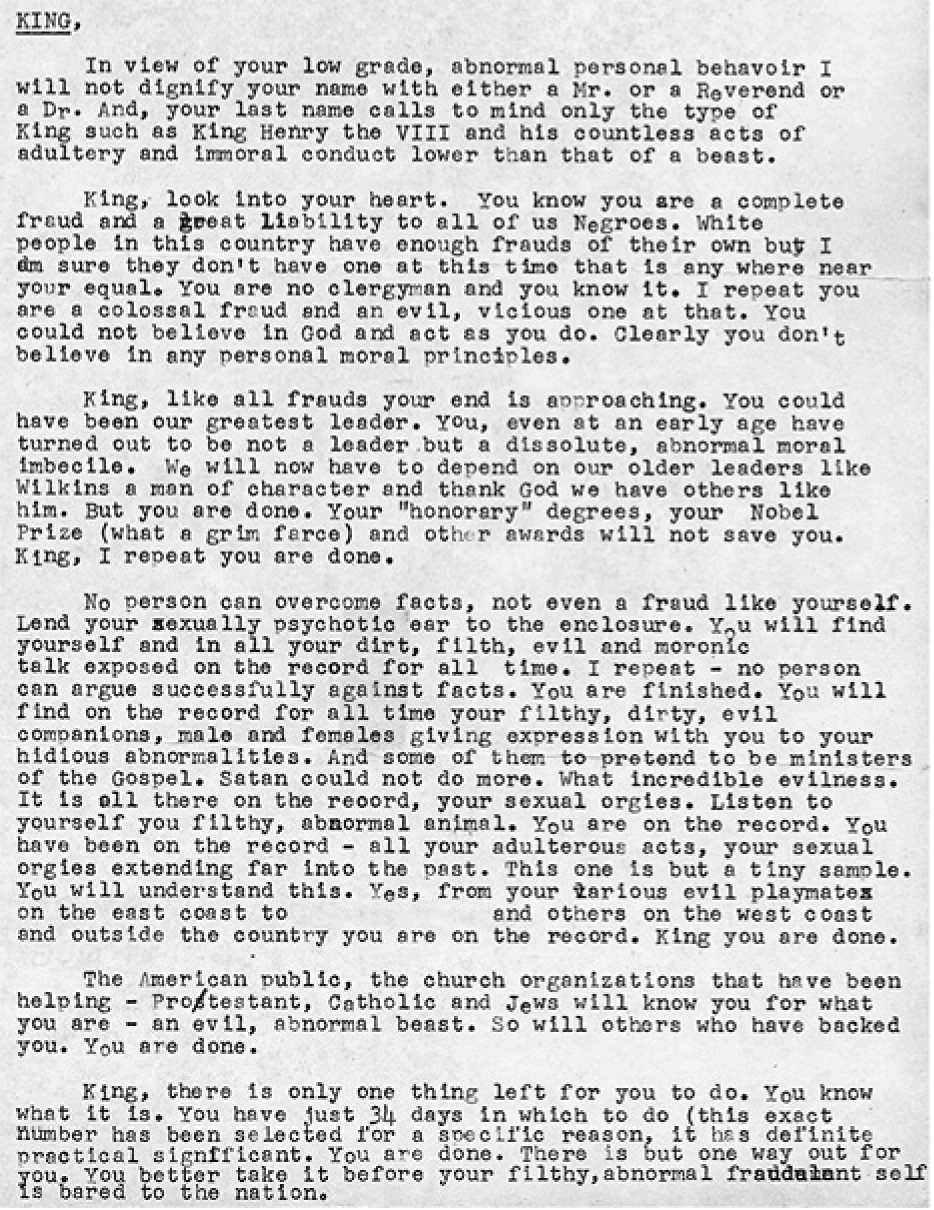
To counter the growing radical movements of the 1950s, ’60s, and ’70s, the FBI and police regularly exceeded their legally authorized powers. It was believed that in the interest of fighting suspected subversion, just about any violations of constitutional freedoms could be justified, whether that was harassment, illegal surveillance, or even cold-blooded murder.

The FBI began its Counterintelligence Program (COINTELPRO) in 1956, at the height of America’s anti-communist hysteria. FBI director J. Edgar Hoover ordered his field agents to “expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit and otherwise neutralize” specific target groups. Among the specific groups Hoover deemed disruptive to American society were the American Indian Movement, the Communist Party, the Socialist Workers Party, black nationalist groups, Students for a Democratic Society. But Hoover’s paranoid fears ultimately encompassed a sweeping range of antiwar, antiracist, environmentalist, feminist, and lesbian and gay groups. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a particular focus of Hoover’s, as was any organization that sought social or racial justice, such as the NAACP, National Lawyers Guild, American Friends Service Committee, and many others.

Covert operations were employed in the extreme. The assigned purpose of the field agents was not merely to spy on organization leaders and to report any “un-American activities,” but to discredit them personally, smear their reputations, and “foster factionalism” that would tear the groups apart. Often aided by local police, many of whom shared the Bureau’s reactionary viewpoints, FBI employed many illegal or at least questionable tactics in their undeclared war:

- Planting false and libelous stories about radical leaders in the media.
- Forging signatures on personal correspondence and public documents.
- Publishing and distributing bogus leaflets in the names of their target groups.
- Making anonymous telephone calls and inflammatory calls to leaders of the targeted groups seeking social or racial justice.
- Posing as members of radical or civil rights groups, setting up phony cells to get information on the kinds of individuals attracted to such organizations.
- Making false arrests to establish criminal records for targeted individuals.
- Starting fake disputes, such as in Operation Hoodwink, which tried and failed to convince the Mafia that the Communist Party was attacking their activities.
- Giving perjured testimony and providing fabricated evidence in courts, resulting in wrongful convictions.
- Directly threatening physical violence, including beatings and destroying meeting places. These tactics were particularly common when the targeted groups were black, Puerto Rican, and Native American activists.

Early in 1971 the Citizens Committee to Investigate the FBI removed secret files from an FBI office in Media, Pennsylvania, and released them to the press. This exposed the Agency’s domestic counterintelligence program (COINTELPRO). Several FBI agents resigned and revealed more distasteful details of COINTELPRO. The organized attacks on individuals’ rights, reputations, and lives were denounced as acts of official terrorism. Senate and House committees conducted rigorous and extensive inquiries into the methods of government intelligence-gathering and covert activities. These hearings revealed far-reaching illegal programs involving the FBI, CIA, U.S. Army Intelligence, the White House, the attorney general, and state and local law enforcement against groups of citizens who opposed domestic and foreign policies. In 1975, the congressional Church Committee described COINTELPRO and other abuses by the nation's law enforcement and intelligence apparatus as "a secret war against those it citizens it considers."



KING,

In view of your low grade, abnormal personal behavoir I will not dignify your name with either a Mr. or a Reverend or a Dr. And, your last name calls to mind only the type of King such as King Henry the VIII and his countless acts of adultery and immoral conduct lower than that of a beast.

King, look into your heart. You know you are a complete fraud and a great liability to all of us Negroes. White people in this country have enough frauds of their own but I am sure they don't have one at this time that is any where near your equal. You are no clergyman and you know it. I repeat you are a colossal fraud and an evil, vicious one at that. You could not believe in God and act as you do. Clearly you don't believe in any personal moral principles.

King, like all frauds your end is approaching. You could have been our greatest leader. You, even at an early age have turned out to be not a leader but a dissolute, abnormal moral imbecile. We will now have to depend on our older leaders like Wilkins a man of character and thank God we have others like him. But you are done. Your "honorary" degrees, your Nobel Prize (what a grim farce) and other awards will not save you. King, I repeat you are done.

No person can overcome facts, not even a fraud like yourself. Lend your sexually psychotic ear to the enclosure. You will find yourself and in all your dirt, filth, evil and moronic talk exposed on the record for all time. I repeat - no person can argue successfully against facts. You are finished. You will find on the record for all time your filthy, dirty, evil companions, male and females giving expression with you to your hidious abnormalities. And some of them to pretend to be ministers of the Gospel. Satan could not do more. What incredible evilness. It is all there on the record, your sexual orgies. Listen to yourself you filthy, abnormal animal. You are on the record. You have been on the record - all your adulterous acts, your sexual orgies extending far into the past. This one is but a tiny sample. You will understand this. Yes, from your various evil playmates on the east coast to and others on the west coast and outside the country you are on the record. King you are done.

The American public, the church organizations that have been helping - Protestant, Catholic and Jews will know you for what you are - an evil, abnormal beast. So will others who have backed you. You are done.

King, there is only one thing left for you to do. You know what it is. You have just 34 days in which to do (this exact number has been selected for a specific reason, it has definite practical signficant. You are done. There is but one way out for you. You better take it before your filthy, abnormal fraudulent self is bared to the nation.

A 1964 anonymous letter from the FBI to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was designed to convince the civil rights leader to kill himself. Just one example of the FBI's nefarious counterintelligence efforts.

The exposure of COINTELPRO brought about a period of temporary reform of government abuses in the 1970s. But a 1981 executive order severely curtailed the Freedom of Information Act that was so useful in uncovering such programs as COINTELPRO. This leaves the nation potentially unaware of what actions the government is currently undertaking on domestic soil.

More recent developments such as the passage of the Patriot Act (which the U.S. government has routinely used as a blanket excuse for tracking and arresting citizens at will) and reports that the FBI has been conducting massive data-mining operations on American civilians, surveilling groups like Black Lives Matter, and infiltrating Muslim communities do not provide significant cause to believe that the Agency has learned from its COINTELPRO mistakes. Some people believe that the many suspicious deaths of activists who took part in the 2014 Ferguson, Missouri protests after the police killing of Michael Brown carried frightening echoes of COINTELPRO crimes of years past.

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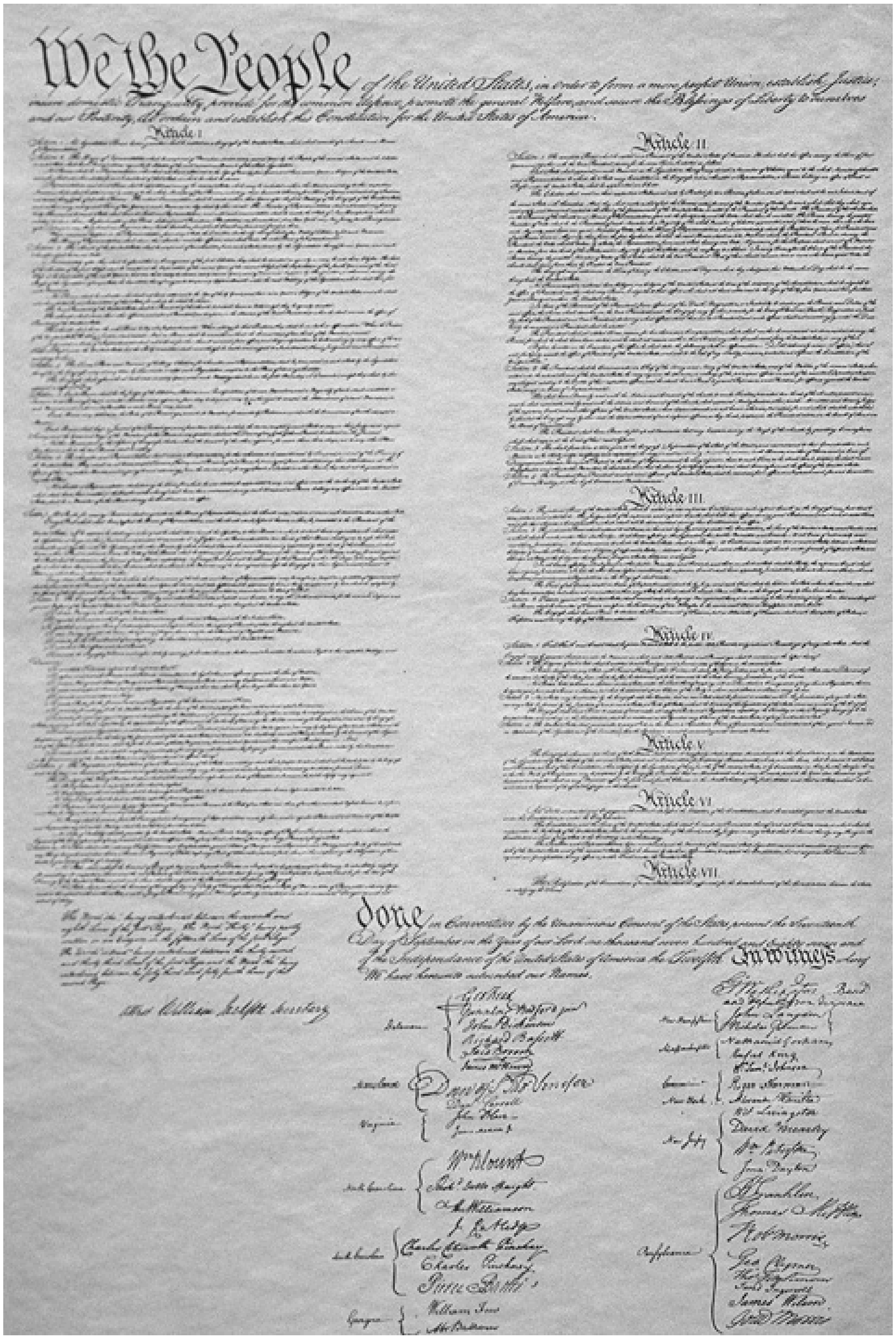
THE CONSTITUTION

What if the U.S. Constitution is not valid anymore?



Some people hold that certain amendments and acts passed by Congress have, in effect, voided the power of the U.S. Constitution.

Since so many conspiracy theories revolve around who holds the true power behind the scenes and also the close reading of crucial documents, it is not surprising that the U.S. Constitution has played a central role in many theories that question what it actually says and means. Here are some of the more interesting and potentially consequential ideas about how the common interpretations of the Constitution could differ from the reality:

THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT

Ratified in 1868, this constitutional amendment guarantees so many rights—its Due Process Clause has been interpreted as a promise that Americans can enjoy "equal protection of the laws"—that it has been called a "second Constitution." But because of it having been part of Reconstruction-era reforms, some want to ignore it, claiming that it is no longer valid in a post-slavery era, particularly its guarantee of birthright. Influential, right-wing historian David Barton argued that the amendment's intent was only to protect the citizenship of recently freed Blacks. Some white, sovereign citizen activists believe that the Fourteenth Amendment actually makes Black Americans subject to the government's dictates, which they themselves are free from following.

THE ORGANIC ACT OF 1871

Passed to clear up confusion about what governmental entity was responsible for managing the District of Columbia, this law made the capital a "municipal corporation." Some close readers of legal fine print have since proposed a myriad of theories about this seemingly banal legislation, among them that it made D.C. a foreign entity, that it turned all of the United States into a corporation that allows the government to operate without constitutional oversight, and that it may have even eliminated the Constitution entirely. Some adherents of this theory take it further to conclude that every law passed since 1871 has been null and void.

PERMANENT STATE OF EMERGENCY

On March 9, 1933, not long after entering office, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared a national emergency to deal with the catastrophic effects of the Great Depression. He may, though, have never lifted it. In following decades, other presidents have declared states of national emergency—Harry Truman on December 16, 1950, and Richard Nixon on March 23, 1970, and August 15, 1971—and also left them in place. In 1973, a U.S. Senate special committee determined that "this vast range of powers, taken together, confer enough authority to rule the country without reference to normal Constitutional processes."

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CONTRAILS AND CHEMTRAILS

We've all grown used to seeing those white vapor trails left in the sky by jet aircraft. We've been told that those wispy lines are nothing but the natural by-product of exhaust fumes. However, conspiracists insist that a black-ops agency working with the New World Order is systematically releasing a chemical spray that spawns disease and mind control upon the U.S. population.

Contrails (short for “condensation trails” and also known as vapor tails) are the thin, smoky-looking white streams left in the wake of aircraft flying at high altitudes. They are caused by natural chemical and physical reactions in the wake of an aircraft. They vary greatly in length and duration, depending on atmospheric conditions at the flight altitude. Contrails can be miles long and last for many minutes or they can vanish almost immediately a short distance behind the airplane. The key to their formation and behavior is that they are made largely of ice crystals.

The two types of engines used in most planes are piston engines, powered by petro/gasoline, and jet engines, normally fueled by paraffin/kerosene. Both jet and piston engines draw air from the surrounding atmosphere to combine with the fuel in order to create the combustion that powers them. Air contains water vapor in some relative concentration, varying from dry to saturated, at which point rain, snow, or sleet may result. Taking in the moisture with the air, an airplane’s engine heats the vapor, which then emerges as superheated steam in the exhaust. There will be more steam or less, depending on the amount of moisture in the air to begin with and on the fuel-to-air ratio. Typically, for every gallon of fuel burned, one gallon of steam is produced.

Aircraft exhaust also contains countless microscopic solid particles produced during combustion. When the surrounding air is cold enough, the ejected steam almost instantly condenses on these particles and freezes. These ice-coated particles are what constitutes a contrail. The air must be very cold for this to happen, which is why contrails generally form only at fairly high altitudes. In fact, contrails were rarely observed until the end of World War I, when aircraft first began to reach altitudes of thirty thousand feet or more.

Records dating from the 1940s in World War II state that contrails gave away the position of U.S. bombers to the German fighter pilots hunting them, and many pilots and planes were lost as a result. During the Cold War, pilots complained that contrails pinpointed their exact location and made them obvious targets.

This vulnerability provides an obvious reason for military involvement in experiments regarding contrails and the like: what causes them, what their properties are, and how to make them invisible. This military interest is most likely the springboard for the many conspiracy theories about secret government projects involving contrails, HAARP, weather manipulation and control, bio warfare, and a whole gamut of other classified experiments and operations, particularly what many people call “chemtrails.”

According to some scientists, the environmental effects of flying aircraft had not been accurately measured between the Wright brothers first took flight in 1903 and September 11, 2001. In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, commercial flights were grounded for three days. The Climate Impact Experiment sponsored by NASA was able to gauge the impact that flying has on the environment. The results definitively show that the air we breathe is changed by the exhaust from aircraft.

According to some scientists, the environmental effects of flying aircraft had not been accurately measured between the Wright brothers first took flight in 1903 and September 11, 2001.

Dr. Cheryl E. Merritt, a researcher and professor at Yale University, is one of many scientists who take note of the wonders of flight yet also warn of the growing harmful consequences of atmospheric pollution from aviation. Dr. Merritt is especially concerned that very-high-altitude supersonic transport planes could engender stratospheric air pollution with "consequent changes in climate." Besides the water vapor that forms contrails, jet exhaust contains carbon dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter including aerosols. Merritt notes that "it is speculative just how harmful these pollutants can be."

Surprisingly, given the potential dangers, as of today the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports having no regulations addressing contrails and their atmospheric effects. Some observers believe that this lack of regulation is itself is part of a conspiracy—a conspiracy centering less on contrails than on their sinister cousins, chemtrails.

As opposed to contrails, which are the relatively natural product of high-altitude airplane-engine combustion, chemtrails consist of man-made chemicals deliberately sprayed from aircraft. There are legitimate reasons to dispense chemical in this manner: crop dusting over farm fields to destroy weeds or insects harmful to crops; cloud seeding to bring rain to areas of drought; firefighting by dumping fire extinguishing chemicals on forest fires or other large blazes; and the release of smoke trails in air shows or to create advertising messages. The chemtrails that have caused great concern are none of these, but rather the artificial clouds that conspiracists are convinced are raining down influenza and other diseases on an unsuspecting populace.

Chemtrails became the focus of one very popular conspiracy theory, thanks to frequent discussions over the airwaves by popular radio talk shows such as *Coast to Coast*. With massive worldwide audiences, these programs broadcast the concerns of scientists and laypersons who call in to report the accumulating data regarding chemtrails. Many theorists believe that a secret government project is in effect to alter the thought processes of people and render them powerless to resist New World Order dictates. Others believe that our own government is engaged in a massive depopulation effort so calculatedly subtle and dangerous that potentially millions will die. The methodical and deliberate poisoning of the air we breathe is being manipulated by the spraying of chemicals from aircraft.

The fear of chemtrails became so intense thousands of Websites devoted to the topic appeared. Many call for action to stop this effort, which they believe to be a methodical program of the New World Order to sicken and kill off the weak and indigent, then manipulate the healthier citizens remaining. Other theories point to the military, the chemical industry, or climate scientists as the culprits.

To the average person, contrails and chemtrails in the sky may look to be of the same origin, but conspiracists believe there are key differences. Chemtrails are usually thicker, extend farther across the sky, and are arranged in patterns of X's, tic-tac-toe grids, and cross-hatched and parallel lines. Rather than dissipating in a few minutes, as contrails generally do, chemtrails expand and drip "feathers" and "mare's tails." In about half an hour they spread into wispy formations that come together to form a thin white veil or a pseudo cirrus-type cloud that can persist for several hours. It is this false cloud that will rain down various highly contagious diseases and/or mind-control hallucinogens.

Seeing lots of contrails in the sky is a common sight in the United States. More and more, many citizens wonder just what might be in those supposedly harmless condensation trails.

Conspiracists began reporting suspicious chemtrail or aerosol spraying in the late 1970s. In the late 1990s chemtrail spraying appeared to increase, and sightings of unmarked white planes diffusing chemicals into strange cloud formations soared worldwide.

Skeptics endeavor to squelch paranoia by pointing out that such a massive program of chemtrail spraying as conspiracists suggest would require an extensive cover-up involving thousands of aviation employees and military personnel. Conspiracy theorists see no problem in black-ops or New World Order agents achieving such a cover-up of the participants in spraying chemicals on a populace that has already been deceived about the truth on innumerable prior secret government operations.

Skeptics also dismiss such a plot by pointing out how ineffective it would be to release a cloud of spray above 30,000 feet and leave it to the vagaries of high-altitude winds. Conspiracy buffs say that such an objection might have value if the chemtrails were targeted for a specific area. As it is, however, the sinister agencies simply wish to disperse the chemicals as widely as possible.

As reports of chemtrails continued to raise the ire of citizens across the nation into the twenty-first century, an increasing number of serious-minded individuals took offense at establishment scientists' arch dismissal that only paranoid conspiracy theorists were experiencing the unidentified fallout. Some claimed they became seriously ill as a result of being drenched by the chemicals that were released into the skies above them. The mysterious Morgellons disease is often mentioned as a result of exposure to chemtrails.

Some conspiracists are adamant in their claims that HAARP, a U.S. Air Force research station in Alaska believed to be in fact a secret weapon system that taps into the limitless plenum of energy surrounding Earth, uses chemtrails as frequency reflectors from its ground and space bases so that it might direct its binary weapons system against whatever segment of the human population is designated as a target.

In 2009, some scientists admitted that certain vapor trails from airplanes had been doused with chemicals to create artificial clouds that could block out the sun's rays, thereby helping to decrease the effects of global warming. Climate scientist Ken Caldeira of the Carnegie Institution in Stanford, California, recommended that jumbo jets deposit clouds of tiny particles of sulfur dioxide to reflect away sunlight from the earth. Nobel Prize winner Paul Crutzen suggested that 747s should release huge quantities of sulfur particles into the stratosphere to cool down the atmosphere. Scientist Tom Flannery also predicted the eventual need for humanity to disperse large amounts of sulfur into the stratosphere to shield Earth from the sun. The U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River National Laboratory in Aiken, South Carolina, began shooting huge amounts of porous-walled glass microspheres into the stratosphere. Starting around 2018, billionaire Bill Gates has backed different projects for counteracting global warming through so-called geo-engineering, in one case by spraying calcium carbonate ($CaCO3$) into the sky. Some conspiracy theorists have argued that Gates is actually trying to blot out the sun completely.

While depositing massive amounts of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere might filter out sunlight and contribute to the cooling of patches of earth, the chemical could also result in acid rain and the acidification of lakes, streams, forests, and croplands. Acid rain also causes the erosion and decay of buildings, bridges, painted surfaces, statues, and sculptures. Environmental Protection Act scientists also warned that exposure to sulfur raining down on humans could bring about such deleterious health conditions as neurological and behavioral changes, disturbance of blood circulation, heart damage, stomach and gastrointestinal disorders, damage to liver and kidney functions, reproductive failures, and damage to the immune system.

Even some scientists who were enthusiastic about their experiments with chemtrails have begun to express concern that acid rain and increased weather pattern disruptions could have unintended consequences that would ultimately defeat the purpose by triggering droughts, famines, and ozone depletion. Secretive attempts to bioengineer the natural cycles of the planet were beginning to be reassessed as outlandish and dangerous.

On November 29, 2011, a 300-member group in Mohave Country, Arizona, calling itself the "Chemtrail Geo-Engineering Lawsuit," began actively testing individuals who have suffered heavy metal toxicity in their blood and hair follicles. The group claims that a federal geo-engineering program has been using jet planes to spray a solution of barium, aluminum strontium, and other elements into the skies above the United States in an effort to reflect sunlight and cool the planet.

Al DiCicco, of Golden Valley, Arizona, who spearheaded the group, said that they found a woman in Bullhead City who showed levels of barium in her blood that were 28 times normal levels. DiCicco accused the federal and state governments and environmental agencies of being unwilling to properly investigate the geo-engineering projects being conducted. DiCicco's group plans to seek a law firm that will represent their claims in a class-action lawsuit.

DiCicco said that he was in contact with people all over the world who were concerned about the reality of geo-engineering and the harm being done to humans, animals, plants, and food production. DiCicco also stated that the group had established contact with filmmaker Michael J. Murphy, whose film *What in the World Are They Spraying?* examines the phenomenon of chemtrails.

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WILLIAM COOPER

UFO expert? Conspiracy theorist? Navy Intelligence operative? Controversial radio personality? Militia leader? Survivalist? Patriot? Fanatic? The most dangerous man in America? Milton William Cooper might be all the above.

William "Bill" Cooper was a leading conspiracy advocate—a patriot, by his own definition—who was outspoken about the Constitution, the JFK assassination, the Trilateral Commission, the Bilderberg Group, the Illuminati, the New World Order, UFOs, and the One World Government.

Cooper's intense research into information he "stumbled on," along with his top-secret clearances in the military, fueled what he came to believe was his purpose. For over ten years he lectured and taught in every state in the nation, and worldwide, all the while fighting to keep his discoveries in the public eye. His drive to get the facts out, to "disseminate the truth" as he saw it, became his life mission.

Starting in the late 1980s, Cooper achieved international recognition as an author and radio personality who weaved together a dizzying array of threats both seen and unseen. His landmark book, *Behold a Pale Rider* (1991) sold hundreds of thousands of copies and became an ur-text for many conspiracy theorists, including everything from the anti-Semitic *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* (which he claimed was actually about the Illuminati) to his wartime experiences ("The whole time that I was in Vietnam and especially on the DMZ, I had noticed that there was a lot of UFO activity") and AIDS being a government-run program to reduce the population. *The Hour of the Time* was a WBCQ worldwide shortwave radio program Cooper started in 1992 on which he railed about the insidious forces arrayed against a public that he thought was asleep at the switch. "Wake up, sheeple!" was his rallying cry. He often announced that the high risks he took in speaking out would be lessened by going public with as great an audience as possible. That way, he stated, if he ended up being "taken out permanently," folks would have to suspect that he'd been a deliberate target to be silenced.

The more people who heard his radio broadcasts, watched his video productions, listened to his tapes and lectures, or read any or all of his many publications, including newspapers, newsletters, and books, the better—even if it cost him his life. "Don't believe me or anyone else, research it for yourself," was his constant urging for his audience to check things out and make up their own minds, setting the stage for many YouTube and Google conspiracy researchers who came later.

Speaking incessantly about the overall plans of the secret One World Government, Cooper warned that any kind of registration, whether it involves products, social security, or gun control, is a method contrived to gather information on humans in order eventually to subjugate them. Further asserting that credit cards, driver's licenses, bank accounts, and the like are all part of the overall design that will lead to the forthcoming cashless society, he passionately urged listeners to be aware that virtually all data—even medical—will be encoded into a mandatory computer chip or similar tracking device and implanted in each and every individual so that all citizens will be completely dependent upon and subject to the secret government. All monetary transactions, including income, purchases, and even taxes, will be coded through these chips, so that without one implanted, no one will be able to earn a living or to buy or sell anything.

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Supplementing his lectures with documents, diagrams, and massive research, Cooper repeatedly drummed one of his most inflammatory arguments: that it is against the law to make people pay taxes. Citing the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution as proof, he argued that it is illicit to declare it mandatory for citizens to pay taxes. This was one of his main causes and perhaps his most dangerous. "We Americans have blindly and dutifully submitted ourselves to this and it is wrong," he would yell. Though his beliefs were sprawling and not easily framed in right-left terms, his anti-tax furor was part of what gained him significant following in the patriot and sovereign citizen fringes during the 1990s.

Reared in an Air Force family, Cooper later served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and claimed to have had top-level security clearances. Cooper's bold declarations and allegations served as a magnet for government authorities. Knowing this to be so, he always maintained that he'd rather go out in a blaze of glory than to maintain silence. Apparently sensing that a major confrontation was eminent, in March 1999 Cooper sent his family out of the United States for their security. He remained in his Eagar, Arizona, home to continue his work, alone except for his "guard geese," two dogs, one rooster, and one chicken. There, during a raid on his home by the Apache County Sheriff's Department on November 5, 2001, Cooper was shot and killed.

One can always find differing reports of any given incident, and this one is no different. Several reports from the sheriff's office claimed that the episode did not involve a planned SWAT raid on Cooper's property but a simple "confrontation" between the police and Cooper that resulted in an exchange of gunfire. Also critically wounded was one of their own: Robert

Martinez, an Apache County deputy. Other reports claim that the gunfire took place during an attempted arrest. Whatever the case, many of Cooper's followers believe that the episode was simply the murder of one of the first men to expose the government for what it truly is. Although conceding that Cooper may not have been an easy man to get along with, these adherents hold a mounting belief that the authorities concealed evidence about the shootout, and claims along these lines have ever since served as provocative fodder for those screaming that his "murder" was itself a conspiracy—to silence Milton William Cooper for once and all.

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FATHER CHARLES COUGHLIN

The famous "radio priest" became one of the most virulent anti-Semites of the 1930s.

Born in Hamilton, Ontario, on October 25, 1891, Charles Coughlin was ordained a Catholic priest in 1916 and became the pastor of the Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak, Michigan, in 1926. Coughlin accepted the role of a "radio priest" in 1930 and slowly gained a following. During the 1932 presidential election, Coughlin used his radio show, *The Hour of Power*, to rail against Herbert Hoover and became an ardent supporter of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Though a populist who vented frustrations over the machinations of bankers and the uneven distribution of wealth, Coughlin used his electronic pulpit to blast liberalism and socialism in the government.

To defend the 1938 Nazi pogrom known as Kristallnacht, Coughlin invoked centuries-old anti-Semitic libels. He was an embarrassment to Catholics....

Because he had become such a vocal and enthusiastic endorser of Roosevelt, many among Father Coughlin's radio constituency expected that the outspoken priest would receive a high post in the new administration. Although he may not have admitted it openly, Coughlin harbored such expectations himself. He confided to certain friends that if Roosevelt should so reward him, he would quit the church and become a positive force within the government. When the rumored post did not materialize, Coughlin became openly disgruntled. By 1937 his attacks on Roosevelt had grown so virulent that he received a rebuke from Pope Pius XI.

Dropped by CBS, Father Coughlin was certain that NBC would welcome him and his radio parish of millions. Unwilling to rile the Roosevelt administration, NBC informed Coughlin that they had a policy of not accepting commercial religious broadcasting. Incensed, the volatile cleric used WOR New York and WJR Detroit as his flagship stations and then, funded by contributions from his radio audience, bought time on individual stations throughout the United States.

In 1936, Coughlin started a magazine called *Social Injustice* to supplement in print his rants over the airwaves. He continued to fulminate against the Roosevelt administration, but his targets now increasingly included Jews. To the horror of many of his steadfast listeners, he became perhaps the foremost preacher of anti-Semitism in the nation. To defend the 1938 Nazi pogrom known as Kristallnacht, Coughlin invoked centuries-old anti-Semitic libels. He was an embarrassment to Catholics, and prominent leaders within the church fomented a movement to remove him from the airwaves. He was increasingly seen as a security threat as well. In 1940, several members of his Christian Front militia were arrested in Brooklyn for conspiracy to overthrow the government and planning terror attacks on Jews. In 1942, the Espionage Act was invoked to ban *Social Injustice* from delivered through the mail.

In that same year, yielding to pressure from both the secular and religious establishments, Coughlin left his bully pulpit on the radio and returned to the Shrine of the Little Flower. He remained active as pastor until 1966. He died on October 27, 1979, at the age of eighty-eight.

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COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL POLICY

Some conspiracy theorists say that the ultrasecret Council for National Policy is the right-wing conservative version of the Bilderbergers.

When U.S. Senate majority leader Bill Frist (R-TN) received the Thomas Jefferson Award from the Council for National Policy (CNP) in August 2004, the media was not invited. In fact, one of the cardinal rules of the CNP is that the media should never know who participates in its programs. CNP membership is kept so confidential (Dick Cheney and Clarence Thomas have been rumored to be members)) that guests can attend only with the unanimous approval of the executive committee, and the group's leaders are so secretive that members cannot refer to them by name even in emails.

Just who are the Council for National Policy and why are they so powerful? In 1981, right-wing leaders were encouraged by Ronald Reagan's election to the U.S. presidency and decided that they must somehow capitalize on the administration's popularity. Fundamentalist Baptist preacher and author Tim LaHaye, conservative fundraiser Richard Viguerie, Paul Weyrich of the Free Congress Foundation, and about fifty other far-right conservatives met at Viguerie's McLean, Virginia home to plan strategies by which they might maximize the power and influence of the ultraconservative movement. The Council for National Policy was fashioned out of that meeting as a tax-exempt organization for conservatives who were concerned about the social and religious issues like abortion, gay rights, and school prayer.

Back in 1981 the CNP was far less secretive in declaring its goals and its potential power when it united the theocratic religious right with the low-tax, antigovernment segment of the

Republican Party. Congressman Woody Jenkins of Louisiana, the CNP's first executive director, told *Newsweek* that "one day before the end of this century the Council will be so influential that no President, regardless of party or philosophy, will be able to ignore us or our concerns or shut us out of the highest levels of government."

During the 1980s and 1990s some very influential right-wing and conservative leaders were affiliated with the CNP, including Jerry Falwell, Phyllis Schlafly, Jesse Helms, and Ralph Reed. Today the CNP continues strive to turn the United States to the conservative agenda as defined by the likes of the Christian Coalition, the National Rifle Association, and anti-tax zealots like Grover Norquist. Dedicated to restructuring the U.S. in a Christian fundamentalist mold, the CNP was described by the *New York Times* as "a little-known club of a few hundreds of the most powerful conservatives in the country." More colorfully, the left-wing site *Daily Kos* termed the CNP the "Sith Lords of the Ultra-Right."

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COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Is the CFR just another roundtable of well-connected, international movers and shakers who like to opine on important things, or is it actually a front for the Illuminati?

The headquarters of the Council on Foreign Relations is located at the former Harold Pratt House in New York City.

The official history of the Council on Foreign Relations describes them as "an independent, nonpartisan membership organization, think tank, publisher, and educational institution dedicated to informing the public about the foreign policy choices facing the United States and the world." Founded in 1921 under the auspices of internationalists like Woodrow Wilson, the CFR—with its star-studded membership of business leaders, presidents, journalists, and Supreme Court Justices—has tried to make the case, often through its influential journal *Foreign Affairs*, that narrow nationalism is at the root of much of the world's discord.

But according to the John Birch Society, the CFR and its co-conspirators, like the Trilateral Commission, are really more interested in bringing about a totalitarian, socialist One World Government in which national sovereignty is a thing of the past.

Other conspiracists believe that the CFR is nothing less than the American branch of the Illuminati, which explains its close ties to frequent conspiracy villains such as the Rockefellers. Because of that and its influential leaders, they argue, the CFR can influence financial and political policy at very high levels as a way of furthering the interests of the Illuminati.

Rear Admiral Chester Ward, a former CFR member, once said that the CFR's aims were simple, if somewhat malevolent: "They want the world banking monopoly from whatever power ends up in the control of global government."

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CREATIVITY MOVEMENT

The Creativity Movement is a religion that doesn't believe in God, heaven, hell, or eternal life—only in the white race.

Although the Creativity Movement, whose motto is "RaHoWa" (Racial Holy War), proclaims itself a religion of race. Creators, as members of the group call themselves, do not believe in God, heaven, hell, or eternal life. If you are a member of the white race, according to the Creators, then you already have everything. You are, in fact, "nature's highest creation." The Creators' version of the Golden Rule is: "What is good for the white race is the highest virtue; what is bad for the white race is the ultimate sin."

The Creativity Movement was originally founded by Ben Klassen in 1973 as the Church of the Creator (COTC). Klassen, born in the Ukraine, reared in Canada, joined a number of far-right organizations, including the John Birch Society, which he later denounced. He served as Florida chairman of George Wallace's 1968 presidential campaign and worked on a book, *Nature's Eternal Religion*, which he envisioned would depose the Judeo-democratic-Marxist values he believed were poisoning contemporary life and supplant them with a new concept of race as a transcendent embodiment of absolute truth. Klassen committed suicide on August 6, 1993, at the age of seventy-five, by swallowing four bottles of sleeping pills.

Things had not gone well for Klassen toward the end of his life. He had gained a few converts to his new religion, but on May 17, 1991, one of the COTC ministers, George Loeb, murdered a black Gulf War veteran and was sentenced to life with no possibility of parole for twenty-five years. In 1992 the murdered sailor's family, represented by the Southern Poverty Law Center, filed suit for $1 million against the COTC for vicarious liability. Klassen desperately attempted to divest himself of all personal assets and to dissociate himself from the COTC. His first choice for someone to take his place as leader of the group was serving a six-year sentence for selling tainted meat to public school cafeterias. Choice number two was a pizza delivery man in Baltimore, but at the last minute, the position fell to a Milwaukee skinhead who ran COTC until January 1993. Shortly before Klassen committed suicide in August 1993, Klassen replaced the skinhead with Richard McCarty, a telemarketer.

The COTC floundered under McCarty's leadership. Less than a year after Klassen's suicide, the Southern Poverty Law Center sued for dissolution of the Church of the Creator, and McCarty quickly rolled over.

Nazi-obsessed Matt Hale discovered COTC in the early 1990s when attending Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, but he exhibited no real interest in joining the movement until he saw an opportunity to assume leadership. After Hale was pontifex maximus, "highest priest," in 1996, he renamed the group the World Church of the Creator (WCOTC). Under Hale's leadership, the WCOTC brought in many young male followers.

In 1999 Hale earned a law degree from Southern Illinois University and passed the bar exam. The state bar denied him a license to practice due to his highly publicized bigotry. Subsequently Hale used this denial as another ploy in gaining publicity. He appeared on numerous radio talk shows and tabloid television programs. Tom Brokaw profiled him on an NBC report entitled "Web of Hate."

In 1999 Benjamin Smith, one of WCOTC's members, went on a two-state killing spree that left two dead and nine wounded—all members of racial and religious minorities, including blacks, Asians, and Jews. At first Hale denied knowing Smith, but then, reflecting upon the carnage wrought by Smith, commented that the overall loss was only one white man. In 2003, Hale was arrested for conspiring to murder a judge in a copyright infringement lawsuit. He received a forty-year prison sentence in 2005, by which point the WCOTC had mostly dissipated.

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CRÉDIT MOBILIER

The ambitious project of linking East to West via the Union Pacific Railroad provided the fruits for one of the biggest congressional scandals of the 1870s.

3me ETAGE A LOUER

The headquarters for Crédit Mobilier was located in Paris, France. During the mid-nineteenth century, it was one of the most powerful banks in the world.

The building of the Union Pacific Railroad in the 1870s is one of the most dramatic, and often romanticized, chapters in the taming of the West. It took a massive amount of brutal labor to lay thousands of miles of tracks across a great wilderness in order to link eastern and western state, not mention the financial resources to supply the lumber, steel, food, and other necessities required by a such a vast undertaking. Despite the heroic scale of the undertaking, it also proves the historical truism that when there is an opportunity to make a lot of money, some participants in the project will find a way to steal more than their rightful share.

On the eve of the 1872 presidential election, the *New York Sun* broke the story of the scandal behind the Union Pacific Railroad. Major stockholders in the railroad had formed the Crédit Mobilier, a company that would receive most of the contracts to build the Union Pacific. The greedy stockholders gave or sold shares in the construction of the railroad to equally greedy congressmen, who surreptitiously increased the conspirators' profits greatly by approving large federal subsidies for the project. By approving federal funds for inflated expense budgets, the congressmen and the other stockholders were essentially stealing government money.

The Speaker of the House, James G. Blaine, a Maine Republican, set up a committee to investigate the extent of the congressional abuses—though he himself was implicated in the scandal. The investigation sullied the ending presidential term of Ulysses S. Grant and darkened the political careers of his vice president, Schuyler Colfax, and the incoming vice president, Henry Wilson. Oakes Ames of Massachusetts and James Brooks of New York were censured by the House. Representative James A. Garfield was implicated in the scandal, but enough voters accepted his protestations of innocence to elect him president in 1872.

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CROP CIRCLES

Strange geometric designs in fields around the world keep appearing and nobody can find out why. Whoever unlocks the key to these bizarre circular markings will discover if the unknown artists are here to help or to hinder humankind.

Strange geometric designs have appeared in stands of cereal crops around the world, even in the rice paddies of Japan. The designs are often hundreds of feet in width and length and can cover many acres. Controversy rages over how these "crop circles," as they are generally known, originate, as they are usually formed overnight and involve downed, not cut, swaths of grain stalks.

Although many people believe that crop circles are a comparatively recent UFO-related phenomenon, the mystery is hundreds of years old. Unexplained geometric designs occurred in fields of wheat and corn in Scotland in 1678. Rural residents of England speak of the "corn fairies" that made similar designs in the late 1800s. Researchers have discovered accounts of the discovery of so-called fairy circles in fields and meadows dating back to medieval times throughout the British Isles, Germany, Scandinavia, and France. Recent evidence indicates that Chinese farmers found crop circles as much as three thousand years ago. In most cases of crop circles that have appeared since the 1980s, investigators have determined that the crops were biochemically or biophysically altered.

Cereologists (experts in this field of crop circles) state that since 1989 there have been in excess of two hundred formations in the UK each year. The so-called golden years of crop circle appearances seem to have been 1990 and 1991, in each of which there were between three hundred and four hundred formations.

In 1991 Doug Bower and Dave Chorley, two retired artists in England, confessed they were responsible for making the crop circles that had baffled the world for so long. They accomplished the most intricate of designs by using a simple board pulled by a length of rope. While the confession of Bower and Chorley satisfied many skeptics and journalists, serious crop circle researchers asked how these two elderly gentlemen could have accomplished their hoaxes throughout the world in such great numbers.

While admitting that there have been hoaxes, cereologists point out that pranksters have been unable to create crop circles with the same precision and undisturbed nature as those thought to be of alien or unknown origin. Some suggest pranksters and tricksters far older than the retired artists as the perpetrators of the enigma. Why deviate, they ask, from the suspects who were originally named as culprits? The creators of the crop circles might be found among that group of beings commonly called fairies, elves, or devas—entities that have played a significant role in the myths and legends of every planetary culture for centuries.

Regardless of general dismissal of the crop circle phenomenon by conventional scientists, it would appear that there is a genuine mystery in the formation of many of the incredible designs that suddenly appear in fields around the world. Four principal theories regarding the origins of crop circles are the following:

1. Extraterrestrial entities, offering clues to their identity and intentions toward earthlings.
2. Natural phenomena, ranging from insects to lightning, from plasma vortices (a kind of ball lightning) to electromagnetic anomalies.
3. Hoaxers, such as the duo of Doug and Dave.
4. An ancient nonhuman intelligence indigenous to this planet that is utilizing archetypal designs in order to warn contemporary humankind to be more responsible and more respectful toward Mother Earth.

Various scholars have focused on the fourth possibility and suggested that many of the designs appear to be bound by the laws of sacred geometry. Sacred geometry, these experts state, embodies harmonic waves of energy and universal proportions. Some mysterious intelligence could be attempting to communicate geometrical and proportional wave forms—veritable keys to the cosmos and symbols of the archetypal world.

The English researcher Lucy Pringle believes that many crop circle formations are due to natural causes, such as the discharge of some electromagnetic energy, but she also notes that a particular design formed around April 21, 1998, appeared very close to the prehistoric mound of Silbury Hill. She likened the double-ringed circle with thirty-three scroll-like bands between the rings to a Beltane wheel, an ancient symbol used at Celtic fire festivals on May Day.

In July 2002 a three-day conference of leading crop circle investigators was held in Somerset, England. Andy Thomas, an organizer of the meeting, commented that his eleven years investigating the enigma had convinced him of one thing—that not all the circles were made by pranksters. Other than that, he stated, it was hard to say whether the phenomenon was caused by extraterrestrials, some kind of super-consciousness, collective psychokinesis (mind over matter), natural forces, or some other thing currently beyond human awareness. Most cereologists in attendance insisted that it is relatively easy to tell the difference between circles made by hoaxers and those made by what appears to be some kind of superior intelligence.

Many theories surround the phenomenon of crop circles, including being made by aliens, natural phenomena, or humans playing a grand joke.

While nearly everyone who has looked into the mystery of crop circles admits that a good number of them are hoaxes, Jeffrey Wilson, director of the Independent Crop Circle Researchers Association, told journalist Lee Speigel of the *Huffington Post* that there were many cases in which eyewitnesses observed the designs forming during the daytime. Other circles had formed after a storm front or a severe weather front had passed.

Hoaxers aside, Wilson remains open-minded about the identity of the mysterious force that forms the circles, suggesting that there may well be more than one source involved in their creation. While the majority of crop circle buffs believe that the complex geometric designs are hidden messages left by extraterrestrial visitors or some hidden terrestrial intelligence, Wilson stated that he is not completely convinced that there is any intelligent source responsible. There may be natural processes that could fashion such designs, he said.

Linda Moulton Howe, author of *Mysterious Lights and Crop Circles*, recalled that the first time that she walked into a crop formation, she seemed to feel a "residual electrostatic field around it," as if she were "walking into Jell-O along the edges." Since she began researching crop circles in 1991, Howe has examined and been inside 250 formations. She stoutly takes issue with those debunkers who claim that all the crop designs are created by artistic hoaxers with lasers or other electronic devices.

Howe said that she had often observed small, unidentified lights moving over crops and subsequent formations in England. She cited her work with Italian astrophysicist Massimo

Teodorani in which they studied mysterious plasma in the mountains of Hessdalen, Norway. Teodorani expressed his opinion that there appeared to be intelligence in the plasmas that created the crop circles, but he was baffled as to what kind of intelligence was behind the phenomenon.

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THE DA VINCI CODE

The Vatican called Dan Brown's novel a "sack full of lies." While there is no question the book is a work of fiction, millions are left pondering which of the many controversial "facts" are lies and which are truths hidden for centuries.

When Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh, and Henry Lincoln published *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* in 1982, it was regarded as a controversial, albeit skillful and well-researched, nonfiction account of the centuries-old tradition that Jesus of Nazareth and Mary Magdalene were man and wife, that Jesus might have escaped death on the cross, and that their descendants intermarried with the family that later formed the French Merovingian dynasty. The book became a bestseller in Europe and the United States, creating a stir with its theory that there might well be people in France walking around with Christ's blood coursing through their veins. As the book encouraged discussion of previously off-limits and sacrosanct topics, it roused the Catholic Church to issue resounding denials that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene or anyone else. Then things settled back to normal in church pews across the world, and such topics as the Knights Templar, the Holy Grail, Gnosticism, Rosslyn Chapel, and the bloodline of Jesus and Mary became subjects discussed only by scholars and men and women with esoteric and arcane interests.

But when *The Da Vinci Code* was published in 2001 and became a smash worldwide publishing sensation, all those questions came right back as though they had never been asked before. Could Jesus and Mary really have been married? Has the church been hiding knowledge of their children all these centuries? What about the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Nag Hammadi codices, and all the other books that had been left out of the Christian Bible?

In writing and all other arts, timing is everything. In the 1980s, Catholic dogma was more readily accepted as it was a pre-internet era when clergy sexual abuse revelations had not devastated the Church's credibility. With the dawning of new millennium, millions of people were not only were ready to ask questions, they were ready to get some answers of their own. That those answers were packaged in a highly readable airport thriller-style novel in which a chatty professor pontificates about the hidden signs in this or that piece of artwork while an ultra-orthodox Catholic underground fights violently to keep Jesus's marriage secret (using a memorable albino assassin as informer), all the better.

In December 2004 Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh announced that they were suing Random House and Dan Brown for theft of intellectual property and charged that there were clear links between their book *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* and Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*. Baigent told the *New Zealand Herald* that having his and his colleagues' research "lumped" into Brown's fictional work degraded the historical implications of their efforts. Baigent and his coauthors, Leigh and Lincoln, set forth a hypothesis in *Holy Blood*, and they "managed to establish that a certain amount was shown to be correct; the rest was plausible."

Brown, for his part, has never claimed to have come up with ideas that were never before in circulation. On his website he admits that most of the information is not as "inside" as it seems: "The secret described in the novel has been chronicled for centuries, so there are thousands of sources to draw from."

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DEAD MUSICIANS

Why is it that so many beloved artists die before their time?

It seems like it happens all the time. An incredibly popular musician, beloved by throngs of adoring fans, dies well before their time, often in strange if not downright suspicious circumstances. Then, not long afterward, the rumors begin to fly. It turns out that maybe the overdose was not an overdose. Somebody (or some*bodies*) had it out for them. Then, sightings of the supposedly dead star occur. Is this just wish fulfilment on the part of bereaved fans? Or is something else going on?

Here are some of the curiouser cases of musicians and mortality.

JIMI HENDRIX, JANIS JOPLIN, AND JIM MORRISON

Arguably three of the top music talents of their generation, each broke down stereotypes and took rock and roll to places nobody thought it could go. And then, they were all dead in less than a year and all under strange circumstances: Hendrix (September 18, 1970) supposedly died as a result of "inhalation of vomit following barbiturate intoxication." But a roadie later claimed that Hendrix's manager (and former MI-6 agent) Michael Jeffrey confessed in 1971 to murdering the guitarist. While Joplin (October 4, 1970) was thought to have died of a heroin overdose, arch conspiracist Mae Brussell implied that the raspy-voiced blues belter was one of many countercultural musicians targeted by the CIA's antihippie Operation CHAOS and said that she had been accompanied by an unknown mystery man on the fateful night. As for Morrison (July 3, 1971), his death in Paris was strange from the start (possible heart attack, no autopsy) and was followed by a fog of paranoia and mystery (was he assassinated by French intelligence? What about his jokes about faking his death to start a second life?) and sightings around the world. The most tempting theory behind all three deaths was promoted in the little-seen 1984 movie *Down on Us* (aka *Beyond the Doors*), which postulated that President Richard Nixon had the "pied pipers of rock" assassinated as a way of striking back against the antiwar counterculture.

ELVIS PRESLEY

As this statue at Elvis Presley Plaza in Memphis, Tennessee, attests, the iconic singer and musician remains a powerful influence in American culture to this day.

The “King of Rock and Roll” supposedly died of a heart attack in 1977. Although he had for years been the biggest thing going in rock music (and initially was quite controversial), by then, the King was well into his Vegas showroom phase and likely no threat to the forces that are suspected in the deaths of edgier performers. The usual kind of contrary theories swirl around Elvis’s final moments (questions about the cause of death, hyped by his death certificate being kept under wraps), while some others imagine that he faked his death in order to escape being in debt to a crime syndicate known as The Fraternity. Stranger, though, has been the continuing litany of people who claim to have seen the King alive and breathing in many places, whether having a Whopper at Burger King or showing up as a background extra in the movie *Home Alone*.

TUPAC SHAKUR

Although the biggest hip-hop star of the 1990s died after being shot multiple times in Las Vegas after a 1996 Mike Tyson fight, Shakur helped ensure that his murder would not be entirely believed. First, he had already survived being shot five times during a robbery at a New York recording studio in 1994, so people believed that he would bounce back from the next one. Second, he also performed under the name Makaveli, inspired by Niccolo Machiavelli, who had once suggested that faking your own death was a good survival tactic. As a result, Shakur has been imagined in a variety of places from Malaysia to Cuba and even hanging out at a Bourbon Street bar in New Orleans.

BIGGIE SMALLS

Though little evidence existed that the rapper Christopher Wallace, aka “Biggie Smalls,” had anything to do with the shooting of Tupac Shakur in 1994, that was not how Shakur saw things. In Shakur’s mind, it had been an organized hit on the part of Smalls. This kicked the “East Coast Versus West Coast” hip-hop rivalry into high gear, with the two musicians and their labels—Shakur’s Death Row Records (run by frequent felon Suge Knight) and Smalls’s Bad Boy Records (run by up-and-coming fashion/music impresario Sean “Puffy” Combs)—dueling it out with diss tracks. Shakur’s shocking murder was followed just months later by Smalls being shot to death outside a party in Los Angeles. While popular wisdom had it that the second killing was a revenge done by somebody in the Death Row crew, investigators have found evidence that, in fact, Smalls may well have been murdered by a corrupt LAPD detective. Further indications exist that the two high-profile murders could also have been part of a larger and long-running war between Los Angeles gangs Mob Piru and the Compton Crips.

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DECIDED ONES OF JUPITER

An errant Catholic, Annunchiarico should have known better than to leave the priesthood of one religion to become the wrathful, murderous deity of another.

In 1816 a man named Ciro Annunchiarico became southern Italy's greatest nightmare when he claimed the power of Jupiter, father of the gods of Imperial Rome, and successfully brought a number of bandit gangs into a single striking force, leading them to rob, pillage, and burn under the banner of the skull and crossbones and the motto "Sadness, Death, Terror, and Mourning."

By 1817 Annunchiarico commanded 20,000 members of the secret society of the Decided Ones of Jupiter the Thunderer. The men were divided into camps of three hundred to four hundred members, and squadrons of forty to sixty. The society was structured along military lines, and strict discipline was enforced. If Annunchiarico had so wished, he could easily have led an open revolution against any state government in southern Italy. But despite his claim that the might of the great god Jupiter flowed through his body, he was more interested in personal aggrandizement and a life of luxury than in political opportunities.

Annunchiarico, the son of wealthy parents, had entered the priesthood and seemed destined for a fruitful career in the church. However, he much preferred the life of a country gentleman on the family estate—and the vow of celibacy didn't appeal to him, either. He seduced a young woman who was engaged to Giovanni Montolesi, the son of a wealthy merchant. When Montolesi learned of the affair, he sought out Annunchiarico and reproached him for bringing shame to the priesthood and dishonor to his fiancée. Without a word, Annunchiarico drew a dagger from his belt and stabbed Montolesi in the heart. He later swore a blood-feud against the entire Montolesi family, declaring that the man whom he had murdered had insulted him and the entire Roman Catholic priesthood. Over the next few months, he ambushed and murdered thirteen members of the Montolesi clan. Pursued by the authorities, he then fled with some friends into the mountains.

As the leader of a small band of brigands who favored a life of luxury above that of living in spartan hideouts, Annunchiarico developed a plan to combine the people's love and respect of the priesthood with their fear of secret societies who plundered and murdered them. Boldly summoning the other bandit chiefs in the mountains to a meeting, Annunchiarico eloquently convinced them that they should unite as one to resist the soldiers who were constantly sent to hunt them down.

While the outlaw leaders were deciding just who among them should be in charge of the newly united force, Annunchiarico appeared in the full regalia of the priesthood and announced that he would celebrate the Mass. As the chiefs all kneeled to receive his blessing, such an attitude of obeisance signaled their acquiescence to his leadership. At the same time that he was celebrating Mass, Annunchiarico informed all of the assembled outlaws that the spirit of Jupiter, the ancient father of the gods, had passed into his person and commanded him to form a new order, the Decided Ones of Jupiter.

In a remarkably brief time, numerous independent bands of thieves and murderers became a single secret society. As word spread of the alleged supernatural powers of their leader, Annunchiarico, now known as Jupiter the Thunderer, men flocked to the mountains to join the Decided Ones.

As word spread of the alleged supernatural powers of their leader, Annunchiarico, now known as Jupiter the Thunderer, men flocked to the mountains to join the Decided Ones.

In order to spread accounts of his legendary abilities, Annunchiarico secretly used men who resembled him to serve as his doubles, dressed in priestly robes exactly like his, so it would appear that Jupiter the Thunderer could lead raids in several different places at the same time. He also had his personal bodyguard outfitted in devilish costumes, complete with horns and tail, to perpetuate the belief that he had the power to command and control demons. And then, of course, there were reports of his terrible thunderbolts, which he was said to be able to hurl at his enemies just as Jupiter had flung the deadly bolts in ancient times.

Small troops of soldiers sent against the Decided Ones were quickly annihilated. Early in 1818 when a force of a thousand regular troops under the command of a General d'Octavio marched into the mountains to arrest Annunchiarico and destroy his band of outlaws, the superstitious soldiers were so fearful of the mighty Jupiter that they permitted Annunchiarico to enter their camp at night and to place a dagger at the throat of their general as he lay on his cot. Annunchiarico decreed mercy but warned the general and the thousand men that if they ever dared again to violate his mountains, his thunderbolts would be certain to kill them all. General d'Octavio and his troops were gone at first light the next morning.

When the authorities realized that any army conscripted from southern Italy would hold Annunchiarico in the same kind of superstitious awe as the local populace, they hired a force of 1,200 German and Swiss mercenaries under the command of an Englishman, General Church. Strangely enough, the very approach of these veterans of the Napoleonic Wars affected Annunchiarico in ways that astonished his men. Their god was visibly nervous, even frightened, by the movement of the battle-hardened professional soldiers toward the mountains. Suddenly the person who harbored the spirit of Jupiter seemed like an ordinary mortal—and not a very brave one at that. When word reached the camps of the Decided Ones that the mercenaries were very well-equipped and experienced fighting men, thousands deserted. Within a matter of days, Annunchiarico had only a few hundred of his most loyal disciples remaining out of what had been a fearsome band of twenty thousand.

Annunchiarico and his remnant of followers retreated to the small village of Santa Marzano, choosing this location because of the wall that encircled the town. Hoping that the local populace would join in their defense, Annunchiarico prepared for siege. But the citizens of Santa Marzano could also see that the mighty Jupiter the Thunderer was, after all, just another bandit, and nothing about his person persuaded any of them to risk their lives defending him against the professional Swiss and German soldiers. After a few days of siege, General Church's mercenaries entered the village, killed those Decided Ones who offered resistance, and arrested the others. Annunchiarico and of his three lieutenants managed to escape but were captured four days later.

As he was being led to the firing squad, Annunchiarico's boastful arrogance returned. He bragged that he had killed sixty or seventy men with his own hands, and he mocked the priest who came to administer the last rites. Many of the villagers who had gathered on the day of execution murmured that the Thunderer would call down one of Jupiter's lightning bolts and escape from the mercenaries who had captured him.

Incredibly, after the twenty-one-member firing squad shot a volley into him, Annunchiarico remained alive and somehow managed to get to his knees to begin a prayer to Jupiter. The astonished General Church ordered that the Thunderer's own musket be loaded with a silver bullet and that a soldier discharge the weapon directly into Annunchiarico's head, making certain that the legendary leader of the secret society was truly dead.

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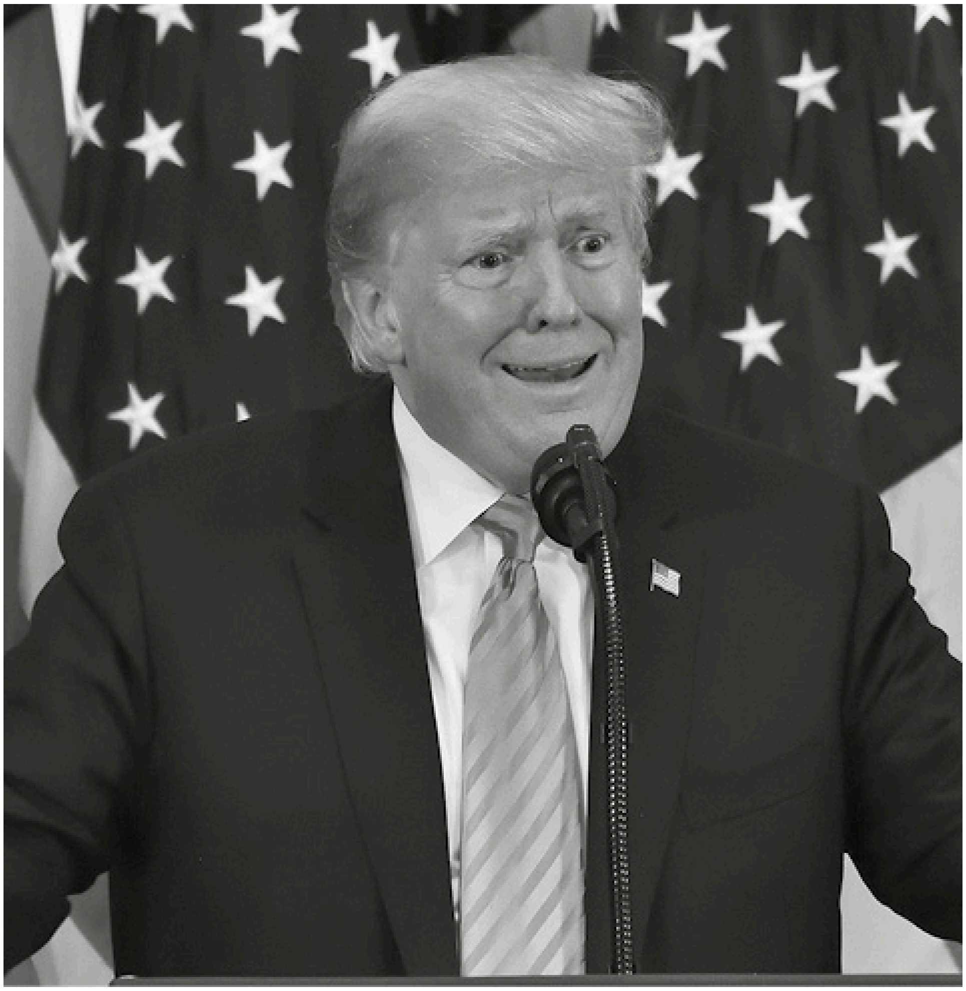
DEEP STATE

Think that the government is run by democratically elected leaders? Maybe the real people in charge are the ones you have never heard of.

Not long after the election of President Donald Trump in 2016, many of his supporters qualified their elation over his success with concern that he was going to be undermined by something they referred to as the "deep state." Investigation of Trump's ties to Russia? Deep state. Leaks from inside his administration? Deep state. Intelligence community worried about the new president's point of view? Definitely deep state.



President Donald Trump used the fear of the Deep State to rally political support for his policies.

But what *is* the deep state? Likely originating in Turkey, it referred to the belief that since the time of post-Ottoman reformist ruler Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, a nebulous array of officials pulled strings behind the scenes to ensure that their preferred rulers stay in charge. The Turkish deep state has been accused of orchestrating everything from assassinations to coups and even the Armenian genocide. Professor Ryan Gingeras likened it to the "dual state" concept in which clandestine coalitions (military, intelligence, organized crime) pull hidden levers of influence inside the machinery of state to pursue their own agendas regardless of what the heads of state may say they want.

Peter Dale Scott's book *The Road to 9/11* (2007) argued that the deep state in America was simply better known as the military–industrial complex. Former Republican congressional staffer Mike Lofgren used the term in an influential 2014 essay to mean "a hybrid association of elements of government and parts of top-level finance and industry that is effectively able to govern the United States without reference to the consent of the governed." Lofgren believed that some governmental power centers become so entrenched over the decades that democratic politics cannot dislodge them. Anybody who has ever watched a president try in vain to cancel an expensive and unnecessary military program knows what he means.

But after Trump came into office, he and his surrogates began using the term to impugn any government official who they believed was not jumping high enough. Once the idea that a shadow government of unaccountable bureaucrats was sabotaging the president was eagerly picked up by Trump supporters, they—because the definition of deep state was so amorphously sinister—were quickly able to attach to it any conspiracy theory imaginable.

Early on in the COVID-19 pandemic, a theory spread that the virus itself had been hatched by the deep state, possibly with the help of the Chinese, to keep Trump from being reelected. But the idea was not strictly on the right. A 2018 Monmouth poll showed that roughly three-fourths of Americans felt that a network of unelected officials existed who secretly manipulate the government.

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DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

If this airport really were a hive of Satanic symbols, why are they so proud about it?

Not everything has been liked about the ultramodern Denver International Airport since it opened in 1995, such as just how far away from downtown it is. But the big issue with a lot of people is how much it appears to be an in-your-face manifestation of the New World Order. It's possible to understand their concern. After all, what about that creepy statuary, from the dark gargoyles to the rearing and blazing, red-eyed "Blucifer" blue Mustang? Or how, when seen from above, the whole complex eerily resembles a swastika? But the underground baggage tunnels are probably not meant to house the world's elite, the markings so many researchers find suspect are actually Navajo symbols, and the whole thing is most likely not operated by lizard people. Still, if the airport (which has had a suspicious amount of fun with conspiracy theorists, even hosting a 2016 exhibition about them) did not want people to believe it was a nexus of evil, then maybe they should have rethought that time capsule with the Freemason symbol chiseled into it right above the ominous words "New World Airport Commission."

As you can see from this diagram of the Denver International Airport, when seen from above it resembles the shape of a swastika.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE UNORTHODOX

Posing as researchers from the Scientific Engineering Institute, the CIA's Office of Research and Development scoured the country for practitioners of black magic and the occult arts.

In 1969 the Central Intelligence Agency's Office of Research and Development (ORD) became known as the "Department of the Unorthodox" when they became intrigued by ideas suggested by Dr. Donald Ewen Cameron, whose experiments explored the farthest reaches of the human psyche. Some of the behavior modifications achieved by Cameron seemed to some members of the ORD to tread somewhat warily into the world of the supernatural. When Cameron had worked for MK-Ultra, the secret group had 150 subprograms involving biology, drugs, psychology, sexual activities, and even motion pictures. Many Hollywood films of the 1950s may have been influenced by MK-Ultra operatives who suggested storylines about the threat of Communism, brainwashing, or invasion from monstrous aliens from outer space.

Cameron had begun his career in psychology assisting the Office of Special Services (OSS, the forerunner of the CIA) in interrogating Nazi prisoners during World War II. A Canadian, Cameron became intrigued by the experiments conducted on concentration camp prisoners by

German doctors, and he contracted to work for the CIA on behavior manipulation. He continued this specialty in Projects Bluebird and Artichoke, which became MK-Ultra in 1953. According to those who knew Cameron, he was a man driven by a need to understand the workings of human behavior and an obsession to find the methods to modify and control it. He conducted numerous experiments in sensory deprivation, sensory overload, and drug inducement. He also performed a great number of prefrontal lobotomies and oversaw electroconvulsive shock treatments.

In 1957, when Cameron's experiments in effectively creating potential "Manchurian Candidates" became known, he relocated his work to the Allen Memorial Psychiatric Institute in Montreal with the help of his friend CIA director Allen Dulles and the Canadian government. The Allen Institute soon became known as "the brain butchery" due to Cameron's excessively harsh experiments with electroshock, LSD, bright lights, sounds, lobotomies, and drug-induced comas that sometimes lasted for months. Many of his experiments proved far too extreme for his "patients," many of whom died.

Fortunately, most in the ORD were not inspired by Cameron's work to become "brain butchers," but they were fascinated by the notion of expanding the parameters of MK-Ultra into this uncharted territory. Agents traveled across the United States searching for practitioners of black magic and the occult arts—fortune tellers, palm readers, clairvoyants, and psychic sensitives. The operatives introduced themselves as researchers from the Scientific Engineering Institute.

By 1971 Operation Often, as this subproject was code-named, had three full-time astrologers on its payroll whose specific assignment was to predict the future. Two palm readers were added to the staff in 1972. Extensive research was conducted into black magic and witchcraft, and an analysis was formulated concerning the number and locations of covens in the United States and the effectiveness of fertility rites and rituals conducted to raise the dead. A Spiritualist medium was assigned to walk the halls of the United Nations to detect any evil or potentially evil ambassadors.

What results came of this remarkable research funded by the CIA? There are stories indicating that many agents continued to infiltrate covens of witches and Satanists. There are accounts of black magic rituals being used in brainwashing and mind-control techniques. While many conspiracy theorists swear to the truth of these allegations, all records of any of MK-Ultra's projects, operations, and subprojects were ordered destroyed in 1972 by the then-director of the CIA, Richard Helms.

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DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

No matter what the official reports say, many believe in their hearts that there was evil afoot the night of August 31, 1997, when Diana, Princess of Wales, was murdered.

The incredible spectacle of worldwide mass mourning over the loss of Diana, Princess of Wales, eventually quieted to an orderly exploitation of her final resting place on a small island surrounded by a tranquil pond on the ancestral mansion of the Spencer family. However, conspiracy theories continue to swirl about her death and that of her lover Dodi al-Fayed.

According to a 2004 poll, 27 percent of the British public believed that Diana was murdered. Official denials from French police, who insist that they conducted an exhaustive investigation and discounted all the conspiracy rumors and hypotheses, have done little to quell the doubts of those who insist that Diana was killed by secret agents, who were ordered to assassinate her for a variety of reasons. Fayed’s father, Mohamed al-Fayed, who owns Harrods department store, is certain that the crash was not an accident and has been fanning the flames of the theories with a variety of lawsuits.

There are many allegations about that tragic night. Here are some of the most common:

1. Princess Diana Was Assassinated by Angry International Arms Dealers

Diana, Princess of Wales, was hugely popular with the British people, and her untimely and shocking death inspired considerable speculation about plots against her life.

Diana became the target of international munitions manufacturers and arms dealers because of her high-profile global campaign against the use of land mines.

Those men on motorcycles who, according to some witnesses, forced Fayed's limousine to crash were not wild and crazy paparazzi who became tragically overzealous in pursuit of sensational photographs, but cold and cruel hired assassins who accomplished exactly what they set out to do: provoke the driver into dangerous speeds and cause the vehicle to crash. Although they were fully prepared to administer a bullet in the back of Diana's head to be certain she was dead, a rapid appraisal of the crash scene convinced them that their assassination had been completed successfully.

2. Diana Was Assassinated by British Intelligence on Orders of the Royals

An equally pervasive theory insists that Diana was offed by British intelligence agents on the orders of the royal family.

Why would the British royals want to take out one of their own?

Conservative Queen Elizabeth and her consort, Prince Philip, were extremely upset by the whole nasty business of Charles and Diana's divorce. They recoiled in humiliation at the manner in which the royal laundry was scrubbed in full view of the world press.

All the gossip about Diana and a string of clandestine affairs became all the more sordid when Diana declared her infidelities were in retaliation for Charles having not given up his mistress, Camilla Parker-Bowles. What was worse to the royal family, Diana left her sons, William and Harry, with Charles and openly carried on with Egyptian playboy Dodi al-Fayed in a romance meticulously covered by the world press. Scandalous photographs of Diana in various stages of undress on Fayed's yacht were even more distasteful to the staid House of Windsor. It was also said that Dodi had presented Diana with a diamond-studded, star-shaped ring to seal their vows of engagement and their intention to wed.

The British press frequently reported that Prince Philip made no effort to keep his dislike of Diana's suitor a secret. Philip had been heard to refer to Dodi as an "oily bed-hopper," and he made it very clear that he considered him completely unworthy of becoming the stepfather of William and Harry.

On August 31, 1997, London's *Sunday Mirror* newspaper quoted a friend of the royal family as saying: "Prince Philip has let it rip several times frequently about the Fayeds—at a dinner party, during a country shoot and while on a visit to close friends in Germany. He's been banging on about his contempt for Dodi. Diana has been told in no uncertain terms about the consequences should she continue the relationship with the Fayed boy."

Among those "consequences" were possible exile—even though she was the mother of the future king of England—or social ostracism from all association with the royal family. Earlier, when such a threat had been made to her, Diana's attitude had seemed to be that if social ostracism meant she no longer had to deal with the royals and their stuffy kind, then she would be delighted. Certain observers of the war of nerves between the Princess of Wales and the royal family suggested that Diana had grown past caring what Charles and his parents thought about her or her romances or her charitable deeds. She was now in a relationship with a man who could afford to keep her in the lifestyle to which she had become accustomed.

Some theorists have claimed that they have evidence that the Diana became deeply involved with the occult and adept at certain techniques of sorcery.

Theorists maintain that when rumors began to circulate that Diana might be pregnant with Dodi's child, the royal family had had enough and ordered her death. Even if she were not currently pregnant with Fayed's child, if they ever married—as it appeared they might—then she might one day bear an unsuitable stepsibling for William and Harry.

And, of course, a bonus for Prince Charles, once Diana was out of the way, was that he could now have full control over his sons, continue his adulterous relationship with Camilla, and one day ascend unencumbered to the throne of England.

3. Diana Paid the Price for Dabbling in the Dark Arts

Prince Charles has often been characterized as a bit off-the-wall for his interests in the supernatural, the paranormal, alternative medical practices, and environmental concerns. It was also well known that Princess Diana and Sarah Ferguson, the ex-wife of Prince Andrew, sought the counsel of spiritualist mediums and psychic sensitives. Knowledge of Diana's dependency on New Age healers and psychics and her tendency to air sometimes bizarre paranoid fears with friends, servants, and therapists keep the assassination theories alive.

Simone Simmons, a New Age therapist, said that she was hired by Diana in 1993 to rid Kensington Palace of "negative energy." Ms. Simmons said that Diana felt vulnerable and persecuted. In 1994 Diana was convinced that the Saudi royal family wanted to kill her. Another time, she thought the CIA was planning to assassinate her.

Some theorists have claimed that they have evidence that the Diana became deeply involved with the occult and adept at certain techniques of sorcery. Others have said that a rather large number of her close friends joined her in her forays into witchcraft, astrology, magic, and the commanding of dark forces.

Could it be, as some have suggested, that the death of Diana and Dodi was a result of occult practices that backfired? Is it possible that curses directing the dark forces against her enemies somehow boomeranged and unleashed their malignant energy upon Diana and her lover?

Some say that is exactly what happened and that evil and mysterious forces were at work that fatal night of August 31, 1997—demonic forces that took the life of one who too carelessly opened a door to a dark dimension of a reality far more sinister than she could have guessed.

4. Diana Was Killed because She Offended a Powerful Secret Society

Closely related to the theory that dabbling on the dark side did Diana in is the ancient allegation that there exists a powerful inner circle of men who operate in secrecy behind the scenes in Great Britain, certain European nations, and the United States and who fervently believe that the royal family of England is in direct lineage to the Throne of David, the House of Jacob, and the actual bloodline of Jesus. Some theorists firmly insist that this secret society did not approve of the public and private actions of Lady Di and pronounced her death sentence before she further embarrassed the royals.

The conspiracy theories concerning Princess Diana's death show no signs of abating and grow even more sinister—and sometimes facetious. Perhaps, as an exasperated Simon Hoggart of the *Guardian* wrote on January 8, 2004, with tongue firmly in cheek, maybe Diana died because "Prince Charles, together with various gay courtiers, shot at the car from a stealth helicopter just as it entered the tunnel."

In February 2009, CBS News' *48 Hours* interviewed Argentinean businessman Roberto Deverik, a friend of Diana's, who told correspondent Erin Moriarty that the princess had often spoken to him about her concern that "murderous plots" were being formulated against her and that she feared that she would be blown up in a car or in a helicopter.

Although it had been seven years since his son Dodi's and Diana's deaths, billionaire Mohamed Al Fayed had not relented in his accusations that the British government had carried out a well-orchestrated hit on the two lovers. It was Fayed's contention that Dodi and the princess were murdered to prevent Diana from marrying a Muslim and bearing a child. In fact, Fayed insisted, Diana was pregnant at the time of the crash in Paris.

5. The Driver Was Drunk and on Drugs

The 2004 CBS program *Diana: Secret Documents Revealed* made public for the first time a 4,000-page French government report that proved that the fatal crash was an accident and not the fault of the paparazzi, foreign agents, or British intelligence. The exhaustive examinations placed responsibility for the accident on Henri Paul, Diana's driver, who was severely impaired that night by a combination of alcohol and prescription drugs. Paul had been driving at nearly twice the speed limit and had clipped a Fiat Uno; he then lost control of the car and crashed into a tunnel pillar. Forensic tests of Paul's body indicated that he had imbibed three times the legal limit for alcohol. Tests of Diana's body testified that she was not pregnant at the time of her death.

In spite of the extensive report produced by the French probe of Princess Diana and Dodi's deaths, conspiracy theorists hold fast to the many scenarios that, in their opinion, reveal a plot to murder the two colorful and controversial figures.

In a CBS poll conducted in 2009, more than seventy-six percent of those surveyed believed wholeheartedly that the public will never learn the complete truth about the deaths of Diana and Dodi.

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DOMINION THEOLOGY

Dominion theologians want to establish an Old Testament theocracy in the United States—but they can't agree among themselves on how to do it.

There are many ideological differences among advocates of the Christian Right. Those who endorse Reconstructionism would like to see the United States become an Old Testament theocracy that would mete out capital punishment for blasphemy, homosexuality, and adultery. Supporters of Dominionism would like to bring into effect a political structure in which Christians alone are biblically mandated to control all secular institutions.

Some Dominionists can tie their beliefs back to R.J. Rushdoony's 1973 opus *Institutes of Biblical Law*. In *A Christian Manifesto* (1981), Francis Schaeffer, an evangelical philosopher who had been allied with Rev. Carl McIntire, head of the fundamentalist American Council of Churches, argued that the United States originated as a nation established in biblical principles. As the generations passed, America became more pluralistic, more multicultural, and more secular. God was moved out of the center of American life, and American society steadily grew more atheistic, hedonistic, and decayed. Legalized abortion, the removal of prayer from public schools, the absence of crèches in front of the courthouse during the Christmas season—all these factors contribute to the downfall of American society. In the closing pages of *A Christian Manifesto*, Schaeffer called for Christians to use civil disobedience to bring back biblical morality throughout the United States.

Schaeffer died of cancer in 1984, and Jay Grimstead, who had been greatly influenced by *A Christian Manifesto*, founded a group called the Coalition on Revival (COR) for the purpose of unifying Christians on the questions of the End-Times and when Christ will return. COR's position is postmillennial, taking the view that Christ will return only after Christians have been in charge of the earth for a thousand years. While more-liberal Christians feared that COR might engage in various conspiracies to take over the nation, only a few of its members turned out to be committed to extremist principles.

Dominion theologians have an inability to focus on any one approach to bringing about a theocracy in the United States. Evangelical Christians include in their number Pentecostals, charismatics, and Calvinists. Some believe that salvation comes by the grace of God and the faith of believers. Others maintain that the saint and the sinner have predestined roles. Some assert that all the founding fathers—with the possible exception of Benjamin Franklin—were evangelical Christians who intended to build a Christian nation. Secular historians counter that, at best, most of the founding fathers were Deists.

A number of conservative politicians—from Vice President Mike Pence to Texas governor Rick Perry—appear to be comfortable with Dominion thinking, to the point where some worry that they and those like them could ultimately attempt to establish a Christian theocracy in the U.S.

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DRUGS AND THE CIA

Everybody agrees that the explosion of crack cocaine into America's cities in the 1980s was a devastating scourge. But some believe it was even worse than anybody imagined.

In 1987, the Iran–Contra hearings were consuming Washington, D.C. It was a tangled scandal in which the Reagan administration sold arms to Iran for its war with Iraq as a way of getting leverage for the release of American hostages being held by the Iranian-backed Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah. On the back end, some of the funds received from the arms deal were then diverted to fund the Nicaraguan Contra rebels even though that had been prohibited by Congress. Amid all this foreign and Beltway drama, one day during the testimony of Oliver North—the National Security Council official who had been responsible for sending the money to the Contras—a couple of men in the audience jumped up waving a banner that read, "Ask about the cocaine smuggling." Nobody did until several years later.

In August 1996, the *San Jose Mercury-News* ran a 20,000-word, three-part series by Gary Webb called "Dark Alliance: The Story Behind the Crack Explosion." It had been alleged before that the Contras had significant ties to the drug trade. In 1988, Senator John Kerry released a report showing how Contras had made Central America into a trans-shipment point for Colombian cartel cocaine, but Webb's articles alleged something more insidious: that the CIA had allowed two men with ties to the Contras to ship massive amounts of cocaine into the United States. He wrote that "for the better part of a decade, a San Francisco Bay Area drug ring sold tons of cocaine to the Crips and Bloods street gangs of Los Angeles and funneled millions in drug profits to a Latin American guerrilla army run by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency." Webb went on to write that this pipeline created the first link between the cocaine cartels in Colombia and Los Angeles, ultimately helping to "spark a crack explosion in urban America."

Any serious allegation that the CIA was active in or just passively allowing a cocaine ring to devastate American communities was explosive. Published in full on the *Mercury-News*'s website, "Dark Alliance" became one of the first viral stories of the internet age. While Webb did not directly claim that the CIA had purposefully introduced crack into Black, urban communities, that connection was quickly intuited by many people and became an article of faith, repeated and spread though constant coverage in talk radio.

For anybody paying attention, the CIA tacitly supporting the drug trade when it was in their interest should have made perfect sense. Charles Cogan, who led anti-Soviet operations in Afghanistan during the 1980s, said, "There was fallout in terms of drugs, yes. But the main objective was accomplished." Caravans loaded with CIA-supplied weapons for the mujahideen tended to leave the country filled with opium. Over the course of the CIA campaign, Afghanistan's opium harvest exploded in size, as did the number of heroin addicts in neighboring Pakistan.

Rebel fighters in Nicaragua known as the Contras were assisted in their struggle by the sale of crack cocaine, but the real scandal is that the C.I.A. allowed that cocaine to enter the United States to keep drug money flowing to the Contras.

The implications of "Dark Alliance" were furiously denounced by those in the intelligence establishment and, surprisingly, a number of other media outlets. Multiple major newspapers ran lengthy pieces picking apart possible errors in Webb's piece. Some found the vehemence of effort in those fact-checking pieces—the *Los Angeles Times* put an incredible 17 writers on it, one of whom called it the "get Gary Webb" team—when compared to the mostly nickel-and-dime issues that they raised to be highly suspicious as though the establishment was protecting itself. Internal CIA documents later revealed that while the agency was concerned about the public relations fallout from the series, they were pleased to watch as their "already productive relations with journalists" appeared to bear fruit with the attacks on Webb's reporting. Eventually, both the *Los Angeles Times* and the *New York Times* acknowledged that they went too far in their criticisms of Webb.

Webb was certainly not rewarded for his journalistic uncovering of a massive possible conspiracy. He was undermined by his editor, who even published an apology for "Dark Alliance" in 1997. Webb eventually resigned, his reputation shredded by the CIA and its media allies. Writing in 2002, he pondered why his career had been such "smooth sailing" before publishing "Dark Alliance" and concluded that until that point, "I hadn't written anything important enough to suppress."

Clinically depressed, Webb committed suicide in 2004.

A poppy field in Nimruz Province, Afghanistan, is just one of many for this profitable crop that produces the drug opium.

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IRA EINHORN

Was the "Unicorn" set up for murder by a secret government agency as he insists—or was Ira Einhorn just a New Age con man?

Although his surname, Einhorn, means "one horn" in German, Ira quite likely named himself the Unicorn, quite likely because the image of the mythical silver-white creature with the single horn rising from its skull would suggest an aura of mystery and magic to his New Age followers and benefactors.

For 22 years, one of the leading icons in the peace-and-love counterculture movement of the 1960s managed to avoid being the star figure in a trial for the murder of his lover, Holly Maddux. Einhorn insists that he is innocent, that an ultra-secret group within the FBI or the CIA murdered his lover and framed him for the crime.

A well-known fixture in Philadelphia's counterculture scene of the 1960s, Einhorn, the city's "official hippie," stressed that he was a lover, not a fighter, espousing harmony and understanding rather than violence. He was known as the pacifist who organized the city's first "be-in," the environmentalist who co-founded the nation's first Earth Day, and a publicity-grabbing mystic with poor grooming habits.

In 1972 Einhorn began a stormy romance with Helen "Holly" Maddux that looked to some like a real-life *Beauty and the Beast*. Maddux was the all-American girl: a cheerleader in her Texas high school, a Bryn Mawr graduate, and a talented dancer described as possessed of an "ethereal beauty." Whereas Einhorn was a scruffy and unbathed hippie high priest preaching peace and love and regaling his disciples with tales of psychic powers.

Holly was certainly not alone in her idolatry of the boisterous hippie. The Unicorn seemed always to live well, the recipient of generous gifts from wealthy benefactors—and even from influential corporate structures who believed that the self-styled "planetary enzyme" had secrets that they could exploit into big bucks.

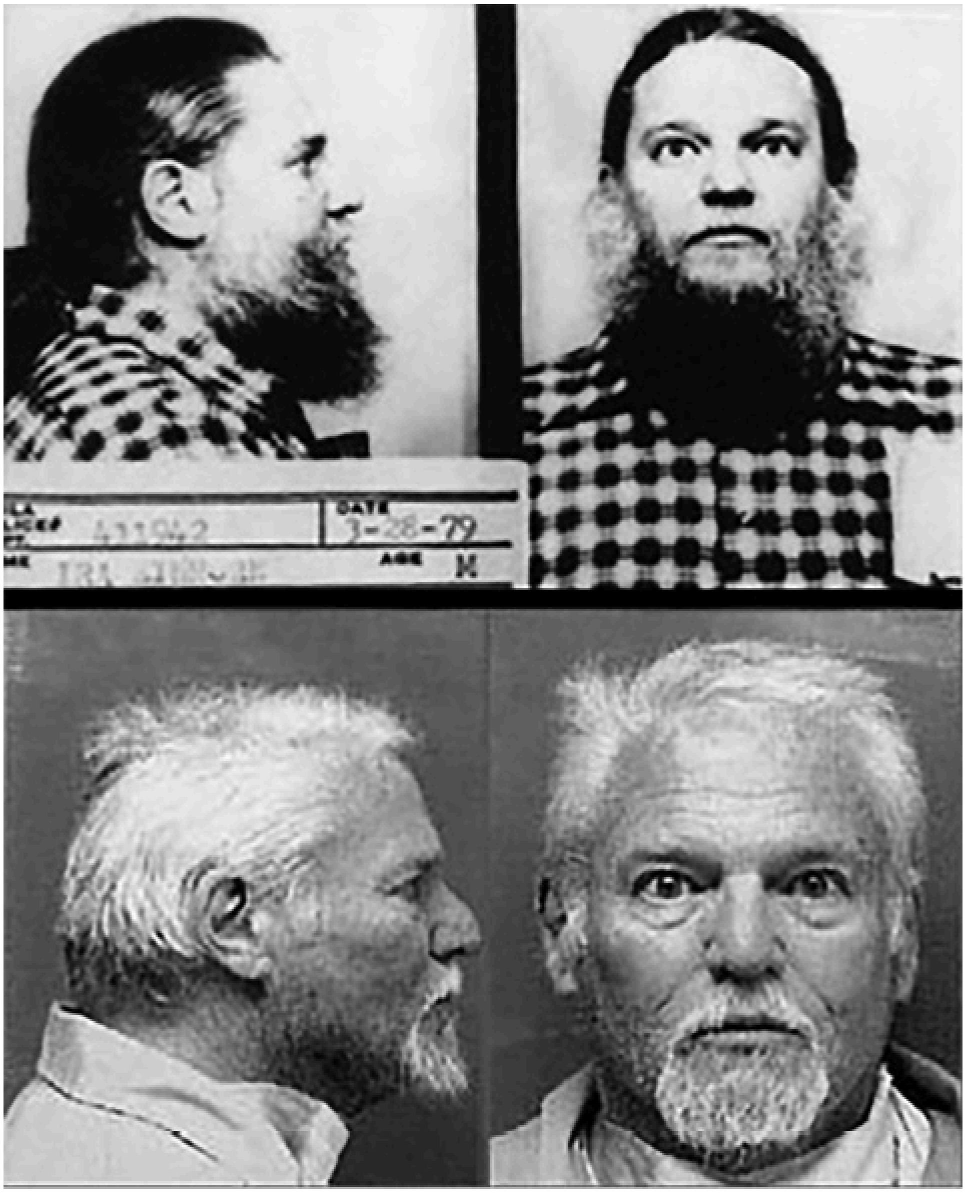
One day in September 1977, Maddux decided to leave Einhorn. Friends of the couple remember noisy quarrels, but Maddux stood firm. Einhorn's associates knew he was furious for being dumped. Then she disappeared. For eighteen months Maddux's family feared the worst and hired a private investigator to find out the truth. Meanwhile, Einhorn was busy, as always, cultivating new contacts among the local politicians and corporate executives. Socialites invited him to their parties; businesses hired him as their counterculture consultant.

In March 1979 Einhorn's downstairs neighbors were finding it difficult to tolerate the foul smell that had begun to permeate their apartment. When a sickening brown stain appeared on their ceiling and a strange fluid began leaking down, they called the police. Maddux's mummified corpse was found in a large steamer trunk.

Although Einhorn was arrested, on the day of his bail hearing an impressive number of high-profile character witnesses appeared in court to vouch for him. Einhorn's attorney, future senator Arlen Specter, managed to get a bail set requiring only $4,000 cash. After all, a high priest of peace, love, and harmony could certainly be trusted to remain in Philadelphia so that he might clear things up at his trial.

Einhorn told his many supporters that he hadn't seen Maddux after she left him and didn't know her body was decomposing in the steamer trunk in his bedroom closet. Clearly, he said, she had been murdered by agents of a secret government conspiracy and her body hidden there to frame him. Another version of his story had him finding her corpse there after she had been killed by the FBI or CIA, after which he hid it in the trunk. He

Einhorn reminded his supporters that the government was still furious with him for his participation in the antiwar movement. He claimed that they also wanted him out of the way because of his pioneering work on the internet and what he knew about the military's paranormal research. Then he fled the country, leading investigators on a years-long chase.



Convicted of murdering his girlfriend, Ira Einhorn asserted he was set up because of his anti-government activism.

In 1993 a Philadelphia court tried Einhorn in absentia for the murder of Holly Maddux. The defendant was represented by an empty chair placed next to his lawyer. The unusual proceeding reflected the prosecutors' concern that a number of witnesses might die before Einhorn could be apprehended and brought back for trial in person. Unfortunately, however, the guilty verdict against the Unicorn turned out to be an unforeseen obstacle in finally bringing him to justice.

Einhorn was finally run to ground in France—thanks to a tip from the wealthy Canadian socialite who had been funding his exile but then stopped believing in his innocence—in 1997. Eventually extradited with the proviso that he not receive the death penalty, Einhorn was given a life sentence in 2002. Until his death in 2011, he maintained his innocence, still insisting that Maddux had been killed by secret government agencies.

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EISENHOWER AND THE EXTRATERRESTRIALS

In 1954 President Dwight D. Eisenhower inspected a variety of alien space vehicles on a U.S. Air Force base.

The origin of the story about Eisenhower and the extraterrestrials known as "Etherians" can be found in an April 16, 1954, letter from Gerald Light (Los Angeles) to Meade Layne (San Diego), director of Borderline Sciences Research Associates. Light writes that he had just returned from a trip to Edwards Air Force Base with reporter Franklin Allen, President Harry Truman's financial adviser Edwin Nourse, and Los Angeles Archbishop James Francis McIntyre of Los Angeles (all of whose names he asks be kept confidential). He then describes seeing "five separate and distinct types of aircraft being studied and handled by our Air Force officials." In response to what he describes as "pandemonium" on the part of the human experts studying the alien craft, "I have no words to express my reactions. It has finally happened. It is now a matter of history."

Light believed that Eisenhower would soon make an official statement that the aliens had landed. That never happened. Conspiracy theorists assert that either the president reconsidered informing the American public or Majestic-12 and other secret government agencies persuaded him to keep the nation in the dark concerning the aliens.

In the 1990s the Earl of Clancarty, a member of Great Britain's House of Lords, repeated the testimony of a British pilot who had been vacationing in Palm Springs in February 1954 and was summoned to Edwards Air Force Base by military officials. According to the pilot, the aliens disembarked from their space vehicles and approached Eisenhower and a small group of political and military figures.

Did President Dwight Eisenhower cover up the fact that the Etherians had come in contact with Earth and were encountered by the U.S. Air Force?

The ETs seemed able to breathe the air of Earth without the need of a helmet or other apparatus, and the pilot described them as basically humanlike in appearance, about the same height and build as an average man. However, their features were, in his opinion, somewhat misshapen. The aliens spoke English, and the thrust of their dialogue centered on their wish to begin a program of education that would make all of humanity aware of their presence. The British pilot recalled Eisenhower forthrightly telling the aliens he didn't believe humans were ready for this revelation. Such an announcement, in his assessment, would only cause widespread panic.

The aliens relented and said they would continue to contact isolated humans until more people got used to their being here. The president agreed with a program of limited contact, but he urged the aliens not to do anything that would create confusion.

The ETs next demonstrated a number of their incredible technical advances, including the ability to turn invisible, before boarding their craft and leaving the air base. Those who had witnessed the historic meeting were sworn to maintain complete secrecy.

Lord Clancarty clarified that although the pilot had kept his vow and had not previously disclosed word of the remarkable events at Edwards Air Force Base, he believed that all the principals who were present in 1954 were now deceased.

In 1993 Dr. Hank Krastman revealed in *Unexplained* magazine that he had also been present that day in 1954 at Edwards Air Force Base as a young sailor in the Royal Dutch Navy. Escorted to a hangar at the far west side of the base, Krastman recognized Eisenhower and several others, including Albert Einstein, Wernher von Braun, and Howard Hughes.

Krastman overheard his commander being told there were five alien ships in another hangar and that the ETs would demonstrate their capabilities. When his commander returned, he was very pale and would not give any information regarding what he had seen. The next day, Krastman said, large crates were loaded onto their ship for the return voyage to Holland. He later found out that the crates were destined for a secret underground NATO base—a converted coal mine of great depth—in Limburg, Holland.

In 1959 Krastman returned to the United States as an immigrant, and he has continued to dig into the true meaning of his peculiar experience in February 1954.

Some researchers continue to believe that Eisenhower never told the truth about flying saucers because he believed it would have created confusion, pandemonium, and bewilderment."

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ELECTRONIC SPYING, TRACKING, AND HARASSMENT

From wiretaps and internet monitoring to implanted microchips in our children, the government has many tools available to watch our every move.

The late Fred Bell believed that electronic harassment can come in a variety of forms—it can be imposed by the surveillance of people's belongings or surroundings, by sabotaging computers, by directing high energy devices at targets, and by using voice data imaging in which voices are beamed into a person's head. The symptoms of electronic harassment often include unusual forgetfulness, suicidal or homicidal thoughts, panic attacks, depression, paranoia, and even death.

WARRANTLESS WIRETAPPING

Before the Patriot Act, which was signed into law in 2001 by President George W. Bush, the use of electronic devices to track, spy on, or harass individuals constituted a violation of U.S. citizens' Fourth Amendment rights to privacy. Law enforcement agencies seeking to justify the interception of private communications in a private environment had to obtain a court order or warrant showing probable cause before they were permitted to "tap" someone's tools of electronic communication. Conspiracy theorists insist that such rights for individuals were being completely ignored by dozens of government and secret agencies using highly sophisticated techniques of electronic surveillance—without seeking court orders—even before the Department of Homeland Security was given carte blanche to violate privacy.

In the warrantless telephone "bugging" of today, human agents are no longer required to sit long hours monitoring the calls of suspected criminals or terrorists. Speech-to-text software quickly creates machine-readable text from intercepted audio calls, which is then processed by automated call-analysis programs. Human agents are assigned the task of monitoring the suspect only when certain trigger words or phrases are detected by the electronic programs.

High on various watchdogs' lists is the National Security Agency (NSA), whose agents secretly conduct warrantless wiretapping on anyone they please. Conspiracy theorists maintain that the scope of the NSA's infrastructure is so vast and comprehensive that its range of abilities is as unknown to the average NSA employee as it is to the average U.S. citizen.

Since passage of the Patriot Act in 2001, the government has had a lot more leeway in spying on average American citizens.

THE INTERNET AS AN INSTRUMENT OF TERRORISM AND REVOLUTION

The internet has become increasingly important as an instrument of terrorism—both foreign and domestic—as well as of civil unrest aimed at overthrowing governments. There is far too much data being transmitted on the internet for human investigators to manually sift through all of it, so automated internet surveillance computers search through an unimaginable cacophony of sounds and images seeking certain trigger words or phrases. In the United States, according to conspiracists, the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act monitors all phone calls and broadband internet traffic, including emails, Web traffic, instant messaging, and so forth. Billions of dollars per year are spent by the Information Awareness Office, the FBI, and the NSA in this pursuit.

The NSA has allegedly developed a supercomputer known only as A.I. (for Artificial Intelligence), or "Mr. Computer." A.I. is capable of forming a "hive mind," a kind of collective consciousness that can stretch across continental links. A.I.'s wiretapping program is able to copy verbatim every piece of data that travels across the internet, send it to various data analysis stations, and provide a real-time analysis of the information packets. Supporting the gargantuan needs of this data-vacuuming effort is the agency's sprawling data center built in remote Utah in 2014, supposedly with the capacity to hold multiple exabytes (1 exabyte equals 1 billion gigabytes) of information.

The NSA also taps into the global wide-band radio listening system. By combining its numerous listening devices, the agency manages to detect nearly every expression of human thought. Through its advanced satellite network, supported by a remarkable network of ground stations throughout the world, it can identify all radio stations and their individual broadcasts. With its incredible wide receiver, it can also pick up WIFI, RFID, cordless telephones, cell phones, GPS, and satellite uploads and downloads.

THE FBI'S DIGITAL COLLECTION SYSTEM

In addition to the NSA's massive computer network, the FBI has built a nationwide computer system called the Digital Collection System (DCS), which is connected by fiber-optic cables and designed to collect and analyze wiretaps of all manner, including those utilized in ultra-secret terrorism investigations.

Increasingly, the U.S. government seems to believe that its citizens have no right to privacy in their public movements. With their growing access to invasive technologies, the police, the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and numerous other agencies are authorized to engage in covert around-the-clock surveillance over as long a period of time as the investigating agency deems necessary. For instance, the Justice Department authorized law enforcement agencies to use warrantless GPS tracking devices on any suspect who drives a vehicle.

NO SUCH THING AS A PRIVATE PHONE CALL

There was a time when people became well aware of the warrantless wiretapping of their landline phones and believed that at least their cell phones were safe from others eavesdropping on their private conversations. That time of freedom and privacy no longer exists. Anything you say on your smart phone can easily be sent to the carriers, who keep a wealth of information regarding text messages, call-location data, and PINs. None of the carriers reveal to anxious and concerned customers how long they store such private and privileged information. Neither do they make it known that law enforcement and security agencies may easily obtain such data.

Intelligence and law enforcement agencies in the United States and the United Kingdom possess the technology that can activate the microphones in cell or smart phones by accessing the phones' diagnostic/maintenance features and listening to any conversation occurring near the person holding the instrument.

Additionally, numerous private companies now freely offer services to track the whereabouts of any person with a smartphone no matter where they go on the planet. Frequently, when conspiracists worry that a government is going to exorbitant means to implant tracking devices in their bodies, they are reminded that such an operation is no longer necessary as long as the person has a smart phone.

DARPA, OUR SEMI-SECRET AGENCY

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is the agency that conspiracy buffs term a "semi-secret" anti-terrorism security group. Mostly independent and reporting directly to the senior management of the U.S. Department of Defense, it is responsible for the development of new military technology. It employs approximately 240 personnel and is given a $3.2 billion budget (conspiracists say the budget has been boosted dramatically).

The agency's original name was the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA), and it was established in 1958 in response to the Soviets' launching of Sputnik in 1957. The mission of ARPA was to upgrade U.S. military technology and be always at least one step ahead of the nation's potential enemies.

ARPA's Network (ARPANET) was the world's first operational packet switching network and the core network of what became the global internet. Originally funded by DARPA for use by its projects at universities and research laboratories, it seems to suggest that the agency was working for Big Brother from its very inception.

In October 2011, DARPA let slip word about its "Narrative Networks" project. Ostensibly designed to study how to shape messages in ways that make them more believable, the project has been seen by many as a way of bringing scientific rigor to the hit-and-miss art of propaganda. The first part of program would involve the analysis of what happens to people when they hear or see a message. Is it possible that certain messages or images actually cause alterations in the brain to accommodate new ideas? The second part would involve a means of taking advantage of those individuals who are vulnerable to such messaging and to bombard them with messages that would overwrite any undesirable brain changes that might have occurred to people susceptible to bad messages so their behavior could be moderated.

But what if an agency of the U.S. government used such technology to reprogram those individuals who object to certain programs that the

government might wish to implement…?

Interesting. But what if an agency of the U.S. government used such technology to reprogram those individuals who object to certain programs that the government might wish to implement, such as declaring war or raising taxes or sending protesters to FEMA camps?

COMBAT ZONES THAT SEE

DARPA is also developing a project called "Combat Zones that See," which would utilize all the video security cameras in a city and link them up to a centralized monitoring station. With thousands of cameras at strategic places, the centralized station could track individuals and vehicles as they moved through the city. Any activities assessed as "suspicious" could be reported to law enforcement and intercepted or investigated.

While city governments usually claim that the cameras are intended for traffic control, they are also used for general surveillance. Chicago's government has openly declared that it will have a surveillance camera on every street corner by 2016. Washington, D.C., recently had 5,000 "traffic" cameras installed.

DRONES, THE EYES IN THE SKY

DARPA also developed the Heterogeneous Aerial Reconnaissance Team program that employs large teams of drone planes that pilot themselves and have the technology to automatically make decisions about who looks suspicious and how best to monitor them. Such judgments are shared with other drones, and human operatives can be notified if their suspicions prove to be justified. A squadron of these automated, self-directing drones can patrol a city or any designated area, tracking suspicious individuals and reporting their questionable activities to a centralized monitoring station.

DISCONNECTING UNWANTED TELEPHONE CALLS

The London Metropolitan Police recently purchased a suitcase-sized device that can remotely disable phones, intercept communications, and track individuals in real time. All the police need to do is to arrive on the scene of a protest or a scene of civil unrest, turn on their suitcase device, and instantly no one is able to record the demonstration on their cell phones or call for help.

The device, called "ICT hardware," is produced by Datong in the UK. Datong was awarded $1.6 million in contracts from the U.S. Secret Service, Special Operations Command, and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. In February 2010, they were awarded another $1.2 million to deliver tracking and location technology to the American defense industry.

The suitcase device can intercept text messages and telephone calls, which allows law enforcement agencies to track the caller's movements in real time. It can also prevent outbound communications from reaching a cell tower, which would be most effective in preventing crowds from being able to organize during demonstrations and protest rallies. In addition, cell phone signals that can set off bombs can be blocked.

SOMEONE IS LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDER AT THE SUPERMARKET

The innocent act of visiting a supermarket can place entire families on a massive tracking system. Almost any physical item purchased—from a toothbrush to a bottle of aspirin—carries its own information in the form of an embedded chip. This chip contains a consumer goods tracking code, an EPC (Electronic Product Code) that sends out an identification signal permitting it to communicate with reader devices and other products embedded with similar chips. The consumer goods tracking system is known as Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), and it signals the death of consumer privacy. The UPC bar code, with which every consumer has been familiar for decades, simply identifies the product. There is nothing wrong with that, people think, because it helps the merchant keep track of his stock. But the EPC does far more by assigning a unique number to every single item produced by every company in the United States—from soda to cream cheese. The RFID tags, hardly larger than a speck of dust, are planted directly into the product during the manufacturing process. Everything from soup to nuts, and from razor blades to automobile parts, is tracked as products move from warehouses to retail outlets. Every company is aware of the whereabouts of its products at all times. The eventual goal is for RFID to spawn a totally linked world wherein every item produced is numbered, identified, catalogued, and tracked.

As Katherine Albrecht writes in “Supermarket Cards: The Tip of the Retail Surveillance Iceberg,” RFID would be able to “monitor individuals’ behavior to undreamt of extremes. With corporate sponsors like Wal-Mart, Target, the Food Marketing Institute, Home Depot, and British supermarket chain Tesco, as well as some of the world’s large consumer goods manufacturers … it may not be long before RIFD based surveillance tags begin appearing in every store-bought item in a consumer’s home.”

RFID technology is commonly used in such items as door keys and tags on clothing in retail stores, but now it is starting to be used to track people.

RFID CHIPS IN SCHOOL KIDS

In 2008 the Middletown School District in Rhode Island put in place a pilot program to monitor student movements at the Aquidneck School by implanting RFID chips in their schoolbags. The chips would be read by an external device installed in the school buses, which would also be fitted with GPS instruments. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) argued that the school was entitled to track its buses, but it was "a quantitative leap to monitor children themselves."

Monitoring school children with RFID chips has been going on since at least 2005, when a grade school in California began handing out RFID badges. In 2001 a preschool in Richmond, California, installed an expensive high-tech system to track the attendance of its students. The system was heralded as a pilot program for others to come.

RIFD CHIPS IN WORKERS ... NEXT, EVERYONE!

Workers in the United Kingdom have gone on strike to protest being tagged with RIFD chips by their employers. Conspiracists believe that it may not be long before all employees are injected with chips to ensure against thefts. Conspiracists also worry that a day might come when everyone will be tracked and scanned wherever they go.

The Verichip, produced by Applied Digital Solutions, is only slightly larger than a grain of rice and is injected under the skin. The Verichip Subscriber Number allows a scanner to access the individual's personal information to the internet from Verichip's database. Thousands of people have already had such chips inserted. The Attorney General's office in Mexico required all 160 of its workers to have such a chip inserted for identity and access control purposes.

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ELF

Conspiracy researchers are convinced that ELF has been used for mind control and has been responsible for many alleged suicides and mysterious deaths.

Extremely low frequency (ELF) is the band of radio frequencies from 3 to 300 Hz. The U.S. Navy has used ELF very successfully in communicating with their submerged submarines. Submarines are blocked from most electromagnetic signals because of the electrical conductivity of salt water. However, communications in the ELF range are able to penetrate much more deeply.

Secret Russian neuromedical research discovered that there are specific brain frequencies for each mood, thought, and emotion that humans experience.

ELF is quite limited in its use in ordinary communications for the very reason that it is useful to signal submarines. Its extremely low transmission rate would require enormously large antennae in order to communicate over long distances. The U.S. government constructed two sites—one in the Chequamegon National Forest, Wisconsin, and the other in Escanaba State Forest, Michigan—each utilizing 14- to 28-mile-long power lines as antennas. Ecologists became concerned about environmental conditions and human health problems resulting from the great amounts of electricity generated and emitted by ELF, and in 1984 a federal judge ordered construction halted until further studies could be made and evaluated. In spite of the U.S. Navy's protesting that they had invested over $25 million in studying the effects of ELF and had found their frequencies no more harmful to the environment and humans than standard power lines, the antennae were ordered dismantled beginning in 2004.

Conspiracy theorists don't buy into the abandonment of any government ELF program. They warn that the human brain can be controlled, even at a distance, by the utilization of ELF carried by pulse-modulated microbeams. According to these theories, shadow government or New World Order agencies have the technology to broadcast mind-control commands directly into the brain by use of microwave beams.

Secret Russian neuromedical research discovered that there are specific brain frequencies for each mood, thought, and emotion that humans experience. An extensive catalog of these brain actions with their distinctive frequencies was established by Russian scientists and psychologists. An agent could beam ELF waves for anger, suicide, hysteria, lust, paranoia, or whatever he chooses at a potential victim and control that individual's actions from the room next door or from a car parked across the street.

Conspiracy researchers are convinced that the transmission of ELF has been instrumental in the alleged suicides and mysterious deaths of scientists, UFO investigators, and witnesses to secret New World Order machinations. If the suicide brain frequency should be beamed at a victim, he or she would enter severe bouts of depression that would quite likely result in suicide. Researchers see this as an explanation why a scientist, a researcher, a government official who was reported by his or her friends and family to have been positive and happy might suddenly become depressed and commit suicide after a few hours or days of ELF beams. In 2013, when a gunman went on a shooting rampage at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C., it was reported that he believed he was being controlled by ELF, the letters for which he carved onto one of his weapons.

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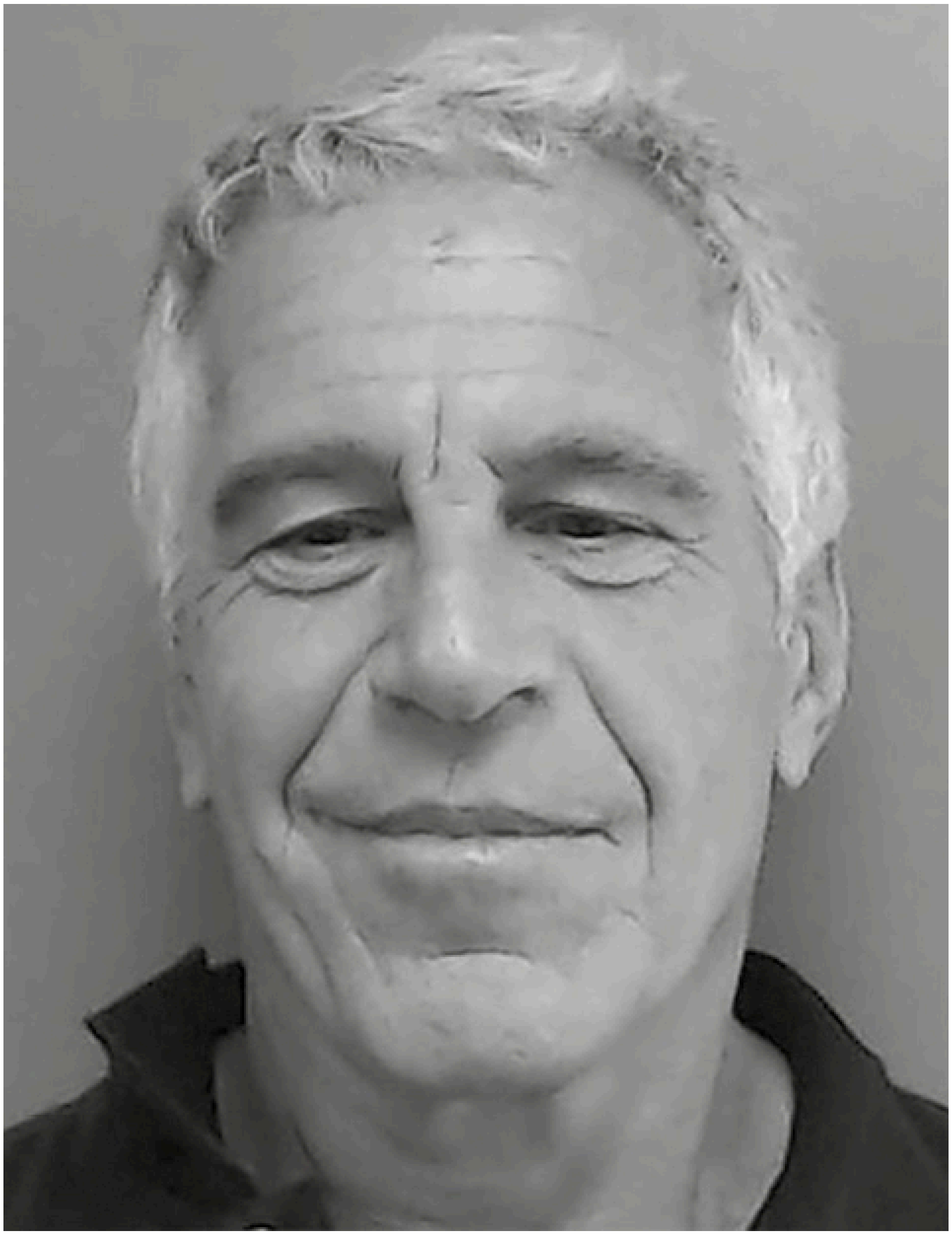
JEFFREY EPSTEIN



The many suspicious circumstances surrounding Jeffrey Epstein's death in prison suggest it was not a suicide. Many suspect Epstein had a lot of embarrassing tales to tell about important men in business and politics.

When a man believed to have devastating dirt on some of the world's most powerful people dies in jail before he can be put on trial, many people's red flags go up.

In July 2019, a financier named Jeffrey Epstein was arrested on sex trafficking charges. Except for the fact that wealthy men are rarely arrested for anything criminal, this would not have warranted much attention. But Epstein was not just any financier. He was connected to some of the best-known and most powerful people in the world (Donald Trump, Bill Clinton, Bill Gates, Prince Andrew) and may have had damaging information about them, so when he was discovered dead from a supposed suicide in New York's Metropolitan Correctional Center on August 10, 2019, it did not take long for people to put two and two together and reach a conclusion of conspiracy.

Other mysteries surround Epstein's life. One of the most perplexing is how the working-class Brooklyn college dropout went from being an elite Manhattan private-school math teacher to a Bear Stearns partner and wealth-management expert who had his own private island and was potentially worth as much as $500 million at the time of his death. Another is how he could have escaped being charged for so long after he had, according to the federal indictment, "created a vast network of underage victims for him to sexually exploit in locations including New York and Palm Beach." Some of the rich and famous men whom Epstein hobnobbed with were alleged to have also had sex with the girls Epstein coerced into being at the many parties he threw. It was said that those famous friends had flown on Epstein's plane (known to some as the "Lolita Express") to his private island, where some of those parties took place.

Epstein appeared to know the right people. When being investigated in Florida for alleged sex crimes with minors and trafficking, he won a shockingly lenient nonprosecution in 2007. Alexander Acosta, a U.S. attorney in Miami, later reported that he had received orders from above to back off. "I was told Epstein 'belonged to intelligence' and to 'leave it alone.'" After a blockbuster *Miami Herald* investigation in 2018 spoke to many of the girls who said they had been victimized by Epstein, the powers that be were finally moved to truly bring Epstein to justice.

That is, until Epstein supposedly hung himself under mysterious circumstances. People who would normally not touch a conspiracy theory with a 10-foot pole began to ask questions. Why was he not being monitored? How come the surveillance video from an earlier suicide attempt of Epstein's was deleted? And regarding the federal prison guards who did not check on Epstein while he was dying, were strings pulled to ensure that they did not serve any time in prison? Was he, in fact, killed in order to ensure his silence and avoid embarrassing his rich friends? And how much did his British socialite lover/enabler/fixer Ghislaine Maxwell (convicted of sex trafficking in December 2021) know?

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EXOPOLITICS AND OBAMA'S TRIPS TO MARS

If there really are aliens, then humanity had better figure out what is the best way of sharing the cosmos with them.

Exopolitics is the creation of Alfred Lambremont Webre's groundbreaking work as a futurist at the Stanford Research Institute, where in 1977 he directed a proposed extraterrestrial communication study project for the Carter White House.

In 2011 Webre revealed that he had learned from two former participants of a secret space project that the CIA had developed a program for teleporting people to the planet Mars in the early 1980s. The two whistleblowers, Andrew D. Basiago and William B. Stillings, also dropped another bombshell on Webre: One person who teleported to Mars at least twice was a young Barry Soetoro, known today as Barack Obama.

According to Basiago and Stillings, young Barry was enrolled with them in a 1980 Mars teleportation training program and was also present during their visits to the early U.S. facilities on Mars from 1981 to 1983. They also noted that Barry's mother, Stanley Ann Dunham, was on assignment for the CIA in Kenya and Indonesia while her son was tutored for travel to Mars.

Ten teenagers were enrolled in the Mars training program, which was held at the College of Siskiyous, a small college near Mt. Shasta in California. One of the select ten was Regina Dugan, who in later years Obama would appoint as the nineteenth director, and first female director, of DARPA in 2009. When the students attained a certain degree of proficiency, they teleported to Mars via a "jump room" located in a building owned by Hughes Aircraft adjacent to the Los Angeles International Airport.

Basiago has stated that the U.S. facilities on Mars in the early 1980s were rudimentary, appearing much like the construction phase of a rural mining project. The infrastructure supporting the jump rooms on Mars were also in the beginning stages of constructing buildings that could serve as a permanent base. Among the personnel on the early base whom Basiago encountered was Courtney M. Hunt of the CIA. Basiago learned that the Mars program was created in order for the United States to be able to establish a claim of territorial sovereignty over the planet. In addition, the planetary pioneers were to familiarize the Martian humanoids and lower life forms with the appearance of humans.

For those who doubt Basiago's and Stilling's stories, Alfred Lambremont Webre lists others whom the two say were seen on Mars while they were on the planet: Michael Relfe, a U.S. serviceman who spent twenty years on Mars as a member of the permanent security staff; and Arthur Neumann, a former Department of Defense scientist who has testified publicly that he teleported to the facility on Mars.

Laura Magdalene Eisenhower, great-granddaughter of U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, has stated that in 2006 she was approached by a government agent who informed her of the bases on Mars and attempted to recruit her to travel there. In 2007 she gave her final refusal to become a member of the secret U.S. colony on Mars that allegedly has a population of 500,000.

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Conspiracy
Secret Society
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FACE ON MARS

The government is covering up proof of an ancient civilization that once thrived on the planet Mars for fear that the shock of such a discovery would destroy Earth's own civilization.

Brian O'Leary, author of *Mars 1999* and *Exploring Inner and Outer Space*, worked with Carl Sagan at Cornell University and was an Apollo astronaut. O'Leary is supportive of the Mars Pathfinder probes but disappointed by what he regards as NASA's lack of vision—especially the agency's failure to investigate adequately the Cydonia region and its mile-wide structure that very much resembles a human or humanoid face.

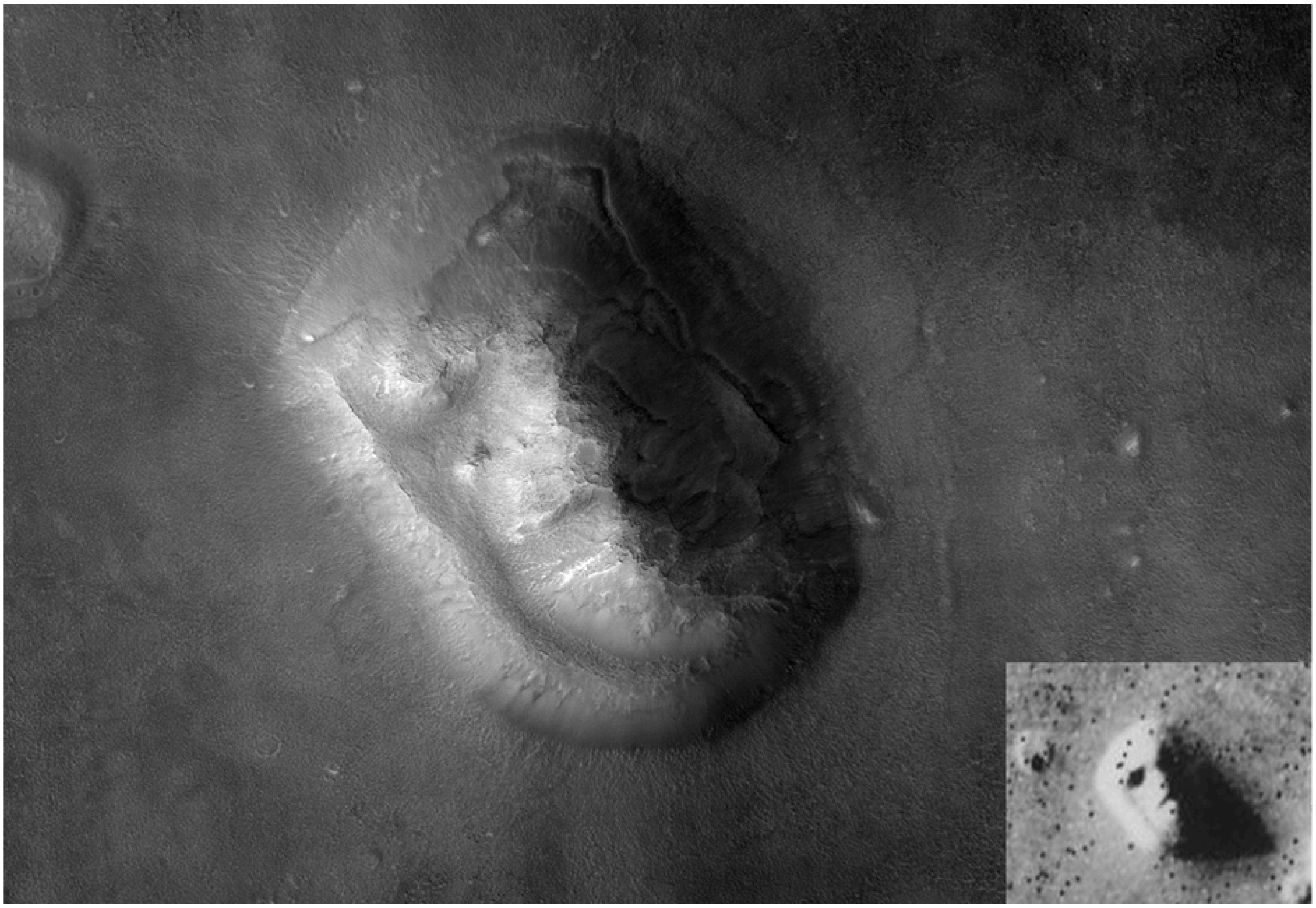
Richard Hoagland, author of *The Monuments of Mars*, has studied and gathered scientific data on several provocative photos of the surface of Mars taken by NASA's Viking probe in 1976. These photos show certain formations that appear unusual compared with the rest of the geologic features on the Martian surface, and he contends that these formations are artificial, not unlike the Egyptian pyramids or Sphinx. He goes so far as to say that these features may have been constructed by some alien race thousands or even millions of years ago. He also claims that the same possibility exists for Europa, a moon of Jupiter, as seen in Voyager mission photos.

Hoagland was a consultant to NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center from 1975 to 1980. During the historic Apollo missions to the moon, he served as science adviser to CBS News. The first time that Hoagland saw the mysterious Sphinx-like face in the Martian landscape known as Cydonia was the summer of 1976, when NASA's Viking had taken 100,000 pictures of Mars.

When a group of reporters and scientists were shown the initial image of the "face," they were told that the spacecraft had taken another frame a few hours later in which the whole image did not appear. The explanation was that it had all been just a trick of the light.

Hoagland's subsequent investigations yielded what he believed to be evidence not only of the mysterious face, but of several five-sided and four-sided pyramids. In his opinion, no natural force could have fashioned such regularly repeated geometric structures. It is as if an unknown ancient alien culture had left a message for those who would discover the objects in an undetermined future. Perhaps the message of Cydonia is that a code has been laid out for those intelligent enough to figure it out, astute enough to determine the mathematics and the geometry that can open new gateways to the universe.

Hoagland was undaunted on April 7, 1998, when NASA's Mars Global Surveyor sent back photographs that were clearly expected to debunk any theories that an ancient Martian or other extraterrestrial civilization had carved the mysterious feature. After twenty-two years of waiting for clearer photographs that would confirm the handiwork of intelligent life on Mars, the new pictures showed only eroded landscape and a pile of rocks.



As you can see, depending on the lighting, the geological feature on Mars can look more or less like a face. The main photo was taken by the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter in 2007, and the inset photo by the Viking Orbiter in 1976.

While other researchers fulminated about NASA's having "erased" the face, Hoagland stated that he was really far more interested in the ruins of what has been called the City of

Cydonia. And now he could only wonder if NASA had missed obtaining better pictures of the city on purpose. "This is ancient, ruined architecture we're seeing," he told *USA Today* in May 1998. Hoagland went on to accuse NASA of having obtained photographs that could confirm his theory but refusing to release them because they would so shock humankind that civilization might collapse.

Tom Van Flandern, former head of celestial mechanics at the U.S. Naval Observatory, said that because the Martian region photographed by NASA has so many odd patterns and shapes, he placed the odds at a billion to one against all of them having occurred naturally. According to Van Flandern, the fact that the desert surrounding the Face on Mars is flat and featureless is of great significance in contrast to this sudden four-hundred-meter object rising at a regular height all around with perfectly straight sides. Ninety-degree angles are common; the bottom is symmetric. He claims that even in the new images the eye sockets and forehead are well defined and match up well with the original photo of the face.

In 1984 Richard Hoagland organized the Independent Mars Investigation (renamed the Enterprise Mission) to further advocate for his belief that NASA has been withholding knowledge concerning structures and artifacts discovered on Mars and the moon that would yield proof of extraterrestrial civilizations. Hoagland came to believe that there are actually two space programs in existence: one to appease the taxpayers, and another conducted by a top-secret group with a hidden agenda.

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FALUN GONG, THE WHEEL OF LAW

Li Hongzhi says that Falun Gong battles evil aliens who have come to Earth to undermine its spirituality. The Chinese government pronounced the Falun Gong itself to be evil.

Falun Gong means the "Practice of the Wheel of Dharma." (Dharma is a complex Hindu and Buddhist concept that translates in a broad sense to "law," especially to the natural order of personal ethics and principles of conduct, equivalent to what is commonly referred to as "religion.") The founder of the movement, Li Hongzhi, a former Chinese government grain clerk who moved to the United States in 1996, claims to have been born on May 13, the supposed birthday of the Buddha, but government records list his birthday as July 7, 1952. Li also claims that Falun Gong, which he founded in 1992, has 100 million members worldwide, 80 million of whom are in China. The Chinese government insists that the number in their country is closer to 2 million.

Falun Gong (sometimes called Falun Dafa) incorporates many Buddhist and Taoist concepts and terms, along with elements from older Chinese apocalyptic sects and also the qigong spirituality, meditation, and exercise movement that spread through China in the late 1980s. Li insists that it is not a religion and that its exercises and techniques complement all religious expressions. He says that Earth has been quietly invaded by evil extraterrestrials who want to undermine human spirituality by contributing to the rapid expansion of technology. Humankind would be much better off without computers and all other machines that replicate human activity and supplant human productivity.

The movement's sacred texts, *Revolving the Law Wheel* and *China Falun Gong*, were both written by Li. The Falun Gong symbol is a spinning swastika (from the Buddhist and Taoist traditions) surrounded by four smaller spinning swastikas and four twirling yin-yang symbols. Five daily exercises activate the higher abilities of mind, body, and spirit and contribute to an individual's self-examination and self-knowledge. Through proper and conscientious practice, the student will be able to attain enlightenment and to master many supernatural powers, including levitation, psychokinesis, and telepathy.

Falun Gong founder Li Hongzhi combined the ancient practice of qigong, Buddhism, Taoism, and a belief in an alien threat to create what China considers a dangerous cult.

Falun Gong was initially treated well by the Chinese government. That began to change in the 1990s, when state media began to be more critical of qigong groups. For thirteen hours on April 25, 1999, fifteen thousand members of the Falun Gong's Qigong sect, standing five or six rows deep along more than a mile of the Avenue of Everlasting Peace in central Beijing, protested their negative treatment in the state media and demanded official recognition for their sect and the freedom to publish their texts. The protest—held only six weeks before the tenth anniversary of the government's deadly crackdown on protestors in Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989—led to Chinese officials branding the Falun Gong an evil cult, claiming that it had caused the deaths of 1,500 members. The Chinese government banned the practice of the cult and sent more than fifty thousand adherents to prisons, labor camps, and mental hospitals.

The Chinese government and Falun Gong continue to hurl propaganda at each other from afar. Falun Gong accuses China of not just killing and torturing its members, but harvesting their organs. The group spreads its anti-Beijing message through a couple extremely popular outlets that most people have no idea are connected to them. *The Epoch Times* is a well-funded newspaper with a massive online presence that has no outwardly Falun Gong affiliation but spreads not just anti-Chinese Communist Party messages but viral conspiracy theories about everything from Clinton scandals to vaccine disinformation. Another Falun Gong messaging front is Shen Yun, an immensely popular touring company that puts on lavish Cirque de Soleil-like shows mixing campy renditions of Chinese culture with sentimental spirituality and blunt warnings about the evils of communism.

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THE FAMILY

Why exactly is this well-connected band of evangelical Christians so insistent on inserting themselves into every node of power in Washington, D.C.?

For over 60 years, Washington, D.C., has engaged in a curious ritual known as the National Prayer Breakfast. A seemingly anodyne event at which politicians gather to give messages of somewhat blandly nondenominational Christian positivity, it is, in fact, one of the best-kept secrets in American political power wrangling. It was started in 1953 by an intensely secretive, evangelical Christian group known as The Fellowship Foundation, or The Family, to its initiates. The mission? That has never been entirely clear. What appears certain is that The Family has spent decades building relations with power brokers under the guise of being a friendly, nonpartisan Christian fraternity with the ultimate purpose of bending U.S. policy in a strictly conservative religious direction out of sight from the voting public. In 1985, President Ronald Reagan said that he wished he could say more about what The Family does, "but it's working precisely because it is private."

Despite its presentation as a collection of humble prayer groups, The Family has been tied to powerful elites from the start. It was founded in 1935 by Seattle businessman Abraham Vereide, who was religious but also really looking for a way to smash what he saw as the antireligious, anti-American subversiveness of organized labor and the New Deal. Vereide's view of Christianity was focused on harnessing the power of those he called "key men" to secretly advance his agenda. He used the prayer breakfasts to connect business, political, and even military leaders who had a shared interest in turning back progressive politics and change America in antidemocratic ways "beyond the din of the vox populi."

Today, The Family operates out of a luxurious, Washington mansion residence known as C Street. Though still operating largely in secret through prayer groups it calls "cells," The Family has connected itself over the decades with a Who's Who of right-wing leaders from Supreme Court justice William Rehnquist and Watergate conspirator Charles W. Colson to senators Strom Thurmond, Sam Brownback, Chuck Grassley, and James Inhofe. According to a secret mission statement, the group wants "to see a leadership led by God," which has led to their doing everything from talking President Gerald Ford into pardoning Richard Nixon to praying with dictators like Libya's Moammar Gadhafi and Indonesia's Suharto and helping to plan an international, anticommunism propaganda campaign linked to the CIA and the Pentagon.

When Russian agent Marina Butina was looking to set up back-channel meetings between Vladimir Putin's government and the Trump administration, she found that the National Prayer Breakfast—which the *New York Times* referred to as an "international influence-peddling bazaar, where foreign dignitaries, religious leaders, diplomats and lobbyists jockey for access to the highest reaches of American power"—was the perfect point of entry. She attended twice. It is not known how many other people have used The Family's powerful connections to secretly affect the course of American history.

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FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

According to some conspiracy theorists, FEMA has a very nasty secret agenda.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency supposedly exists to help with disaster relief, but some believe it is part of a plan to send citizens to prison camps.

Theoretically, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is meant to coordinate emergency management of the effects of domestic crises ranging from natural disasters to civil disturbance and war. Since its creation by President Jimmy Carter in 1979, this has generally meant securing food, housing, and other kinds of relief after disasters like Three Mile Island, earthquakes, and hurricanes. But for years many believe that to be a smokescreen obscuring the agency's true purpose, which is to act (as one conspiracist put it) as "the executive arm of the coming police state," rounding up enemies of the state into dozens or hundreds of prison camps that may have already been built.

Some concerns date back to the 1980s, when patriot and militia groups began raising the alarm about the supposedly terrifying powers given to this once little-known agency.

Those powers could derive from a number of executive orders which appear to grant sweeping powers to the government to suspend the Constitution and all the rights and liberties of U.S. citizens. Several of these orders are included in the Federal Register:

- Executive Order 12148 stipulates that FEMA is in charge during national security emergencies, such as national disasters, social unrest, insurrection, or a national financial crisis.
- Executive Order 11051 empowers FEMA to put the following orders into effect in time of increased international or domestic tension.

- Executive Order 10995 authorizes FEMA, if the agency deems it necessary to accomplish its goals, to seize all communications media in the United States.
- Executive Order 10997 provides for the seizure of all electric power, petroleum, gas, fuels, and minerals, both public and private.
- Executive Order 10998 allows the seizure of all food supplies and resources, public and private—and all farms, lands, and equipment.
- Executive Order 10999 provides for the seizure of all means of transportation, including personal cars, trucks, or vehicles of any kind, and total control over all highways, seaports, and waterways.
- Executive Order 11003 allows the government to take over all airports and aircraft—commercial, public, and private.
- Executive Order 11005 provides for the seizure of all railroads, inland waterways, and public storage facilities.
- Executive Order 11000 allows the government to seize all American people for federally supervised work forces. If the government deems it necessary, it may even split up families.
- Executive Order 11002 empowers the postmaster general to conduct a national registration of all persons. Under this order all U.S. citizens must report to their local post office to be registered. It is at this juncture that families might be separated and individual members assigned to new area.
- Executive Order 11004 allows the Housing and Finance Authority to relocate entire communities and to designate areas to be abandoned and new locations to be repopulated.
- Executive Order 11001 permits the government to seize all functions of health, education, and welfare.

All of the orders listed above were combined by President Richard Nixon into Executive Order 11490, which seems to permit the federal government to take full control and possibly suspend the Constitution if ever the president decides to declare a national emergency.

Some of those worries were validated in 1987, when the *Miami Herald* reported that the Reagan Administration had in effect run a "phantom government" that not only ignored the orders of Congress about issues like arming the Contras but also put in place plans (largely under the direction of Iran-Contra conspirator Lt. Col. Oliver North) to deal with a sudden crisis by suspending the Constitution, declaring martial law, putting the military in charge of local civilian government, and turning full control of the country over to FEMA.

After that, rumors about FEMA's potential for leaping into action at the whim of a dictatorial president have never stopped swirling. A Patriot group called Police Against the New World Order purported that the 1992 Los Angeles riots were planned as a martial law dry run by FEMA, who has also been placing colored dots on mailboxes so that its black helicopter-transported enforcers know where to send people (blue dot: sent to FEMA camp; pink dot: slave labor; red dot: execution).

Every few years, FEMA gets more attention paid to it:

- 1998: *The X-Files: Fight the Future* movie popularizes FEMA theories in a plot where the agency is behind a nefarious government false-flag bombing and conspiracy hiding the existence of aliens.
- 2005: Even though FEMA famously bungled its response to the devastation in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, it was blamed by a wide web of conspiracists for supposedly confiscating guns en masse after the storm.
- 2006: KBR, Halliburton's subsidiary global engineering and services company, was contracted by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to build detention camps for holding large numbers of people. The ostensible reason was for holding an emergency influx of immigrants.
- 2009: *Camp FEMA: American Lockdown* documentary points to a network of sites (many on closed military bases) being prepared for thousands if not millions of detainees.
- 2011: Conspiracists warned that FEMA and DHS were planning to put Occupy Wall Street protestors in camps.
- 2015: After the military training exercise codenamed Jade Helm was planned for Texas, panic ensued in some quarters that it was cover for President Barack Obama to impose martial law. Theorists believed that dome-shaped FEMA-funded emergency shelters were in fact prison camp "Death Domes," with some pointing to recently shuttered Walmarts being repurposed for the same thing.
- 2020: Internet rumors spread about FEMA camps being prepared for mass involuntary quarantines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of this writing, the FEMA camps have yet to open.

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

How did one secret meeting create the most powerful and unaccountable economic force in the world today?

Even though only six people were present—relatively little-known financiers and current/former U.S. Treasury officials Nelson Aldrich, A. Piatt Andrew, Henry Davison, Arthur Shelton, Frank Vanderlip, and Paul Warburg—at the November 1910 meeting at the Jekyll Island Club, what they decided there ultimately created the Federal Reserve System. In the eyes of many, the blueprint laid out at the exclusive resort off the Georgia coast effectively ended democratic influence over America's (and possibly the world's) economic system.

The Eccles Building in Washington, D.C., houses the Federal Reserve System. "The Fed," as it is known, controls much of the U.S. economy, including the interest rates, and yet, oddly, it is privately owned and not part of the federal government.

American economic history in the nineteenth century was marked by booms, busts, and passionate sparring over seemingly arcane ideas about gold and silver standards. Though many resisted the idea of any kind of central bank, fearing that it put too much power in the hands of private (and possibly foreign) banking interests, by 1910, the continual chaos was seen by bankers like J.P. Morgan as untenable. In 1913, drawing on the Jekyll Island plan, Congress created the Federal Reserve System to establish centralized control over the banking industry. This happening the same year as the creation of federal income tax has ever since seemed like too much of a coincidence to many conspiracists who see it all as a power grab by rich and powerful interests. As the United States moved away from the gold standard and the economic system became increasingly internationally intertwined, those worries were melded with concerns about lessening national autonomy.

Over the years, fears about the powers of the 12 banks of the Federal Reserve System have been particularly pronounced among "gold bugs" (the often apocalyptically minded fearmongers constantly predicting the collapse of the world economic order who believe that returning to a gold standard is the only hedge against chaos) and anti-Semites. Groups ranging from Christian Identity leaders to the Nation of Islam and politicians both fringe and midstream have all echoed spurious claims that Jewish-founded institutions like the Rothschild banks and Goldman Sachs actually control the Federal Reserve System.

More recently, a conspiracy theory has claimed that J.P. Morgan masterminded the sinking of the *Titanic* in 1912 as a very expensive and complicated way to assassinate wealthy passengers Jacob Astor, Benjamin Guggenheim, and Isidor Straus, who were all supposedly against the Federal Reserve System, which Morgan had been pushing. A variant on this theory has the Jesuits involved through a banking connection to the Rothschilds.

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FISH AND BIRD KILLS

In early 2011 reports flooded in from all over the world about massive fish and bird die-offs. Theories multiplied as to the cause, from freak weather events, to disease, to the effects of HAARP on wildlife.

On New Year's Day, 2011, residents of Beebe, Arkansas, awoke to find the bodies of over 5,000 red-winged blackbirds strewn over 1.5 square miles. Blackbirds do not fly at night. What were they doing flapping around after dark? What caused this mass killing of birds that would normally be roosting after dark? Theories ranged from people shooting fireworks on New Year's Eve to lightning, thunder, or hail that sent the birds into a panic. Necropsies ruled out poison.

John Fitzpatrick, director of Cornell University's ornithology laboratory in Ithaca, New York, suggested that the most likely explanation was that the birds were nesting in a single tree that got caught up by a thunderstorm that fatally soaked and chilled them. Violent weather had invaded much of Arkansas that New Year's Eve, including a tornado that killed three people, so lightning might have frightened the birds into taking flight.

Perhaps the thousands of dead blackbirds found in Beebe might be explained, but a deadly and mysterious plague that killed millions of birds and fish seemed to be only just beginning of events striking all around the world. Reports flowed in all throughout the month. Here are the kills that took place just on January 10:

- Hundreds of dead aquatic creatures of several species washed ashore in South Carolina.
- Thousands of dead barramundi fish floated up on shore in Australia.
- Millions of dead fish, alligators, and turtles floated on Bolivian rivers.
- Two thousand five hundred tons of fish died in China.
- Thousands of small fish washed ashore in southern Cuba.
- Hundreds of dead birds fell from the sky in Germany.
- Numerous dead whales washed ashore on the Ghana coast.
- Thousands of dead fish were found in India's Yarmuna River.

Many suspects were named as the possible assassins in these strange mass deaths of birds and fish. Pollution was named as a likely possibility, followed by various types of poisons.

When these possibilities were ruled out by scientists and environmentalists, the general public was quick to voice a number of candidates:

- Monsanto's genetic engineering program.
- The End Times—God is coming for His people and Judgment Day is near. The mass killing of birds and fish was a warning sign of what certain errant humans had in store.
- Chemical dispersants thrown into the Gulf to cover up the BP oil spill in the Caribbean.
- The Bush family working with the Bilderbergers.
- Earth movements causing the release of methane gas.

While conspiracy buffs could embrace one or more of the above as possible causes, number one on most of their lists was HAARP or some other weather modification instrumentation. The many flocks of birds struck down from the sky and the hundreds of tons of fish killed in bodies of water around the world were simply collateral damage from experiments conducted to fine-tune advanced mechanisms for controlling world weather.

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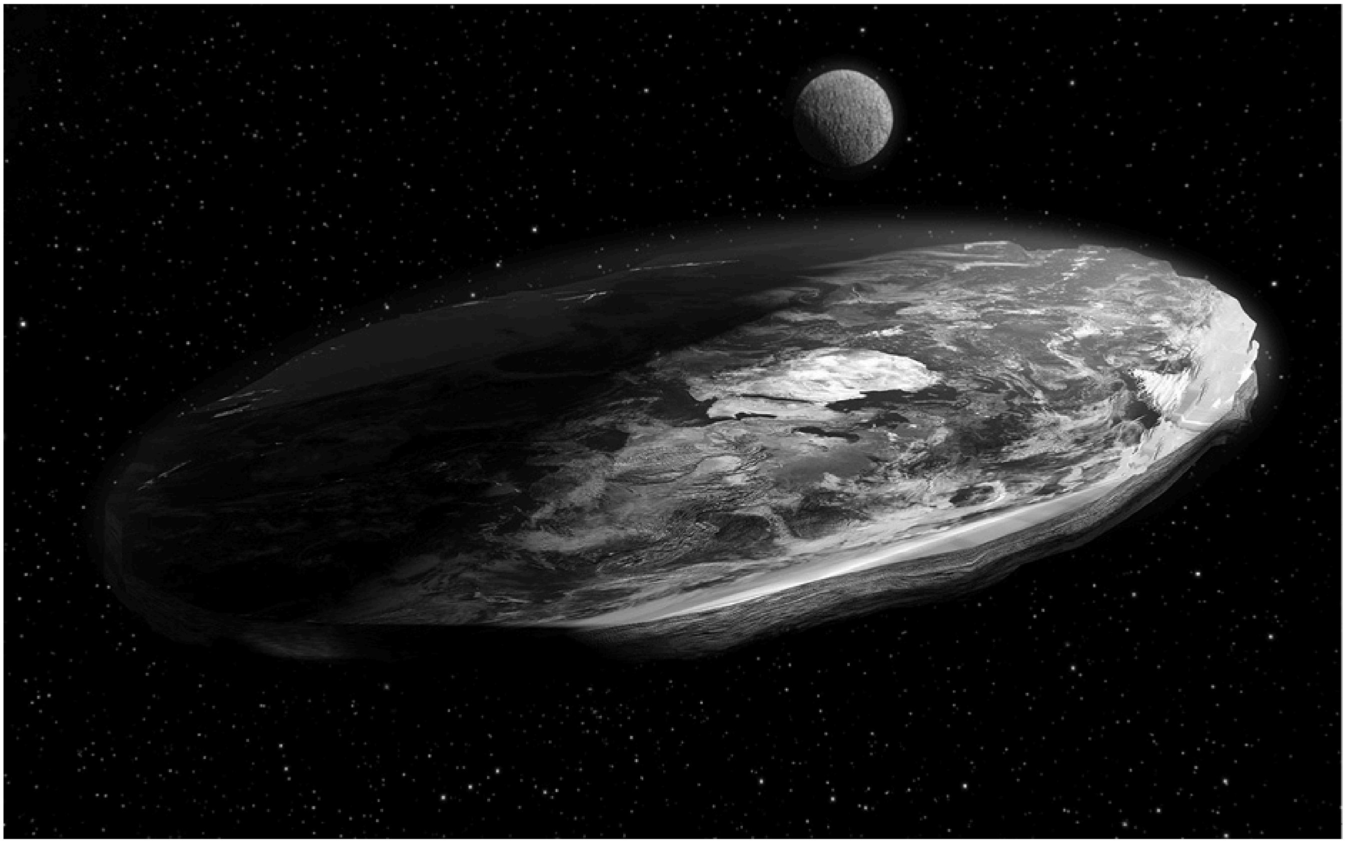
FLAT EARTH

A growing number of people believe that they have been lied to about the shape of Earth.

Contrary to popular belief, Earth's round shape has actually been accepted knowledge since at least the fourth century B.C.E. (Aristotle: "The Earth is spherical"), far longer than humanity has believed that the planet revolves around the sun rather than vice versa. But starting in the nineteenth century C.E., some researchers began promulgating the often biblically derived idea that Earth was actually flat.



Despite all the scientific evidence to the contrary, a growing group of people believe that Earth is not a globe but, rather, a flat disk.

Samuel Rowbotham's *Zetetic Astronomy: Earth Not a Globe!* (1865) and William Carpenter's *One Hundred Proofs that the Earth is Not a Globe* (1885) were two of the most important texts in this movement, which was often linked to Christian fundamentalism. One of the most influential of Rowbotham's theories was his claim of having proven that no curvature of Earth existed, based on his apparently being able to see a boat 6 miles away at the end of a canal when a curved Earth would have put it below his sight line. In 1893, Orlando Ferguson published a biblically inspired *Map of the Square and Stationary Earth*, which shows the planet as sitting in a kind of bowl with a raised Antarctica around the edges and an angel at each of the four corners (per Revelations 7:1, "Four angels standing on the four corners of the Earth").

Modern-day flat-Earthers are not always as religious as their nineteenth-century forebears, but they tend to share the same concept of the planet as a mostly flat plane circumscribed by the icy wall of Antarctica. They scoff at the scientists who have proven that Earth is circular, orbits the sun, and is part of a solar system of similarly orbiting objects that are all together hurtling through the universe at mind-boggling speeds. Much of their discontent comes from the cognitive dissonance of not being able to see much of the globe's curvature from the ground (though that has not stopped numerous celebrities, including a cluster of professional athletes like Boston Celtics player Kyrie Irving, from saying that Earth looks flat even from up in a plane).

Where flat-Earth thinking pivots from belief to conspiracy theory comes from its proponents' insistence that—since many think that Earth is covered by a giant dome, or "The

Firmament"—the entire scientific establishment, particularly NASA, has been involved with covering up the truth. The astronauts who claim to have circumnavigated the planet are believed to be agents of the round-Earth conspiracy, perhaps in the pocket of the Illuminati. Anti-Semitic conspiracy theories have been floated by a number of flat-Earthers (more than a few have also promulgated Holocaust denialism) to explain the mockery they endure. Some flat-Earthers have also pointed the finger at the Freemasons being behind the round-Earth conspiracy, with one being accused in 2021 of trying to burn down Masonic lodges in Vancouver, Canada.

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FLUORIDATION

Though long touted as one of the most beneficial means of preventing tooth decay, fluoridation is believed by some conspiracists to be literally poisoning us, young and old.

Fluoride is put in our drinking water and our dental hygiene products, so it is nearly impossible to avoid it. Does it affect people's mental abilities, as some aver? Or is it just good for our dental health?

Fluoride is the ionic form of fluorine, and although elemental fluorine is rare (because it combines so readily with other elements), in the ionic form it is the thirteenth most common element in the earth’s crust. Manmade fluorine compounds have become grossly abundant since the invention of weapons of mass destruction used in World War II. Fluoride and uranium are key components in the atomic bomb, and fluoride is a key ingredient in fluorinated organophosphate nerve agents, such as sarin.

Drinking water containing fluoride was first utilized in Nazi prison camps, in a deliberate effort to sterilize and subdue prisoners into calm submission. In the 1930s Hitler and Nazi scientists envisioned world domination through mass medication of water supplies. A report submitted to the German general staff indicated findings that repeated doses of very small amounts of fluoride would gradually decrease people’s ability to resist domination, slowly narcotizing a certain region of the brain and rendering the individuals submissive to the will of those who wished to govern them.

Charles E. Perkins, an expert in biochemistry, physiology, and the pathology of fluorine, said that when the Nazis invaded Poland, the German and Russian general staffs exchanged scientific and military ideas, including the scheme of mass control through water medication. Perkins claimed that “any person who drinks artificially fluorinated water for a period of one year or more will never again be the same person mentally or physically.”

In 1945, select cities across America added the chemical sodium fluoride to the water, and eventually most U.S. cities followed suit—thinking it was the healthful thing to do. The “wonder-working” benefits of fluoride were taught not only to dentists and dental hygienists, but also to children in elementary-school health classes. Soon families across the United States spent money and time making dental appointments for their children and themselves in hope of having strong, healthy, and cavity-free teeth. In order to enhance the entire process, dental fluorination treatments began offering a vast variety of flavors, such as bubblegum, mint, or cinnamon. In the 1960s and ’70s guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control suggested that schoolchildren’s drinking water should be fluoridated at approximately *4.5 times* the amount of municipal water, for “greater benefit” to the children.

Conspiracy researchers maintain that current research reveals that fluoride does not prevent cavities or slow gum disease—in fact, the opposite is true. They point to some studies which appear to suggest that fluoride in excessive amounts can cause cavities and gum disease. Many have wondered if there is a conspiracy involved in suppressing this and other even more disturbing information about possible adverse effects of fluoride. For many years, the John Birch Society suspected that fluoridation was in fact a Communist plot.

Ironically, because so many conspiracy believers focused on fluoridation, it became difficult for researchers to engage in serious studies of possible negative side effects because of concern over being associated with conspiracists.

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HENRY FORD AND HIS GREAT JEWISH CONSPIRACY

An engineering genius who didn't like to read, Henry Ford claimed that he really didn't know what his newspaper was printing.

Henry Ford didn't invent the automobile when he built the Model T in 1908 but he began Americans' great love affair with the motorcar. By 1913 he had created the assembly line, a process of mass production that revolutionized the way that the world makes and consumes material goods.

Ford was against any signs of dramatic social change. He fiercely opposed any government interference with industry.

Ford grew up on a farm in Dearborn, Michigan, the oldest of six children, and received his education in a one-room schoolhouse. At sixteen he apprenticed with a machinist in nearby Detroit and for three years divided his time between repairing steam engines and machinery and helping out on the family farm. In 1893 he became chief engineer in the Edison Illuminating Company in Detroit. By 1896 he had invented the Quadricycle, a self-propelled vehicle with two forward speeds and no reverse, steered by means of a tiller, like a boat. With the advent of the Model T, motorists had a vehicle that was reasonably priced, efficient, and easy to handle on rough country roads. In 1918 half of all the automobiles in the United States were Model T's.

By the age of sixty, Ford was regarded as a great hero of industry and so popular that he briefly considered running for the presidency. However, if the public had ever encountered the private Ford, they would quite likely have been turned off by an authoritarian, prejudiced, and antidemocratic despot who tolerated few views other than his own. He grew to hate unions, and any move toward unionism at Ford Motor Company was discouraged by his own strikebreakers. Idealizing his nineteenth-century rural rearing, Ford was against any signs of dramatic social change. He fiercely opposed any government interference with industry. As early as 1927 he was already railing against what he saw as Hollywood's pernicious influence on the culture.

From 1910 to 1918, as the Ford Motor Company was rising to power, Ford became increasingly agitated by the increasing number of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe. He worried they could take jobs away from native-born Americans and easily be persuaded to join unions.

In 1919 Ford purchased a newspaper, the *Dearborn Independent*, and hired William J. Cameron, an experienced journalist, to promulgate Ford's belief that a Jewish conspiracy that had not only instigated World War I in Europe but was now attempting to take over the automobile business in America. Cameron was assigned to deliver these anti-immigrant, anti-labor, and anti-Semitic ideas through a weekly column, "The International Jew," written in Ford's name. After the editor of the *Dearborn Independent* told Ford that he would quit before he ran such bigotry in his newspaper, Ford replaced him with Cameron.

After "The International Jew" had been running for a few months, Ford was introduced to Leslie Fry (the pen name of anti-Semitic writer Paquita de Shishmareff), who gave him a copy of the notorious Tsarist forgery *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*, the source of most modern anti-Semitic literature. Fry told Ford that the book outlined the conspiracy by Jewish bankers to overthrow all European governments and enslave the world. In 1920 the *Dearborn Independent* published an American version of the book in a series entitled "The International Jew: The World's Foremost Problem." Later the columns were published in book form, with half a million copies in circulation in the United States.

For nearly seven years the *Dearborn Independent* ran anti-Semitic articles. Ford's personal secretary Ernest Liebold hired private investigators who concocted all sorts of "evidence" to support Ford's belief that Jews were working to control world finance, create radical political movements, and foster wars that would cause Christians to be killed and Jews to profit from the bloodshed.

Several Jewish businessmen had tried to sue Ford to stop disseminating anti-Semitic hate literature, but due to his influence, none of the charges ever came to trial. However, in 1927 the target of a defamatory series, California farm cooperative organizer Aaron Sapiro, sued for libel and made the charges stick. A trial was ordered, but Ford, who had become increasingly reclusive, refused to testify. The thought of appearing in a public trial for libel terrified him, particularly after Jewish leaders had called for a Ford cars and trucks boycott and steadily decreasing sales at Ford dealerships throughout the United States. With pressure on him to testify, Ford had a (possibly staged) car accident and was confined to a hospital. During that time, he and his attorneys decided to settle with Aaron Sapiro out of court.

Leaders of the American Jewish Committee and B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League convinced Ford to make a public announcement that anti-Semitic articles would never appear again in the *Dearborn Independent*. Ford claimed that he was mortified to learn that *The Protocols* was a well-known forgery, claiming that he was too busy to read the book himself and blaming the columns on Cameron and Liebold. But he was publicly humiliated by the incident, and in 1927 he shut down the presses of his newspaper.

Auto company magnate Henry Ford (second from the left) is seen here during a 1930 visit to Germany. Ford seemed sympathetic to the Nazis as well as possibly being anti-Semitic.

But silencing the *Dearborn Independent* hardly ceased Ford's animosity toward Jews. In 1922 he had become Adolph Hitler's first foreign backer and his pro-Nazi enthusiasm did not waver in the years that followed. Hitler was actually influenced by Ford, quoting sections of *The International Jew* verbatim when he was writing *Mein Kampf*. In 1928 Ford merged his German assets with the I.G. Farben chemical cartel and transferred forty percent of Ford Motor A.G. of Germany to the company. Carl Bosch of I.G. Farben was named head of Ford in Germany. Simultaneously, in the United States, Edsel Ford joined the board of American I.G. Farben.

In August 1938, Hitler awarded Henry Ford the Grand Cross of the German Eagle. When criticism arose in Jewish circles, Ford tried to claim that it was simply a seventy-fifth birthday present and was in no way a reward for being sympathetic toward the Nazi Party.

Ford-Werke A.G. essentially became a German company in the late 1930s; it badly needed raw materials, such as rubber and nonferrous metals, which were funneled from the United States into Germany. When war broke out, Ford-Werke placed itself at the disposal of the Wehrmacht for armament production. Ford-Werke was able to bring additional valuable supplies into Germany from the Ford plants in Amsterdam, Antwerp, Budapest, Bucharest, and Copenhagen. There is strong evidence to support the charge that Ford Motor Company worked on both the Allies' and the Nazis' sides during World War II.

Ford died in 1947, long after he had created his Jewish conspiracy out of an inflammatory forged manuscript. It is doubted that he ever repented. Before he died, he was known to have accused "Jewish bankers" of causing World War II.

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VINCENT FOSTER: MURDER OR SUICIDE?

Was the White House deputy counsel killed because of an affair with the First Lady?

One of the most potentially disturbing questions raised by conspiracy theorists about the 1993 death of White House deputy counsel Vincent Foster is why, in his final days, Foster behaved so unlike a man contemplating suicide. Foster gave no indication to those closest to him that he was so terribly distraught about his new life in Washington, D.C., that he wanted to kill himself. The evening he was found dead, he had enthusiastically set aside time to take his children on an outing. With the anticipated arrival of his sister and niece flying in from Arkansas on the following day, he had promised them that he would escort them personally around the nation's capital, with a bonus of a special lunch at the White House.

Yet, according to students of the mystery, there is no question that Foster's work with the president as deputy counsel had produced significant tension in his life. Foster was a childhood friend of Bill Clinton and later got to know Hillary when they were both partners at a law firm in Little Rock, Arkansas. The two were very close friends, with some claiming that they had started an affair in Arkansas which continued after Foster followed the Clintons to Washington. In the first few months of the Clinton presidency, an initially minor fracas over a years-old real estate deal (known as Whitewater) and allegations of possible cronyism in the White House travel office had quickly metastasized into a panoply of scandal, much of which landed on Foster's desk. Because of the resulting tension and the possibility that he had inside knowledge of Whitewater, Foster was suffering from high degrees of anxiety and depression. Some conspiracy theorists maintain that Foster intended to resign on July 21, 1993.

On the morning of July 20 Foster attended the White House announcement of Louis Freeh's appointment as the new director of the FBI. Foster had scheduled a private meeting with President Clinton for the next day, a meeting at which many believe Foster intended to resign as White House Deputy Counsel.

At midday on July 20 Foster told his secretary, Deborah Gorham, that he would be "right back." On the way out of his office he offered his co-worker Linda Tripp the remainder of the M&Ms from his lunch tray. That was the last time that Foster was seen alive. Some theorists are convinced that he was somehow taken out of the building undetected and against his will.

Several hours after Foster told his secretary that he would return shortly, his body was found in Fort Marcy Park, in a Virginia suburb outside of Washington. He appeared to have committed suicide by placing the barrel of a .38 pistol in his mouth and pulling the trigger. In his briefcase was a torn-up note, part of which read, "I was not meant for the job or the spotlight of public life in Washington. Here ruining people is considered sport."

The U.S. Park Police were the first to investigate, but according to conspiracy theorists, they neglected the protocol mandating that all suspected suicides first be investigated as homicides. In addition, they failed to retain such evidence as Foster's beeper and were remiss in not conducting a thorough search of the crime scene and the surrounding area. Overexposed photographs of the scene were considered worthless by subsequent investigators, and later the X-rays of Foster's skull, along with the ineffective crime scene photographs, disappeared.

The timeline of Foster's death becomes greatly jumbled. Some witnesses stated that Foster's office was being cleaned out before the Park Police arrived to seal it. Several boxes of documents were allegedly removed by Hillary Clinton's chief of staff, Margaret Williams, and carried to the private residence area of the White House.

The Park Police supposedly arrived on the scene of Foster's death at 6:00 P.M. and had identified the body by 6:30 but delayed notifying the White House until 8:30. The staff was allegedly not told of Foster's death until at least 9:00 P.M., and the official identification of Foster's body by Craig Livingstone, former White House security director, did not take place until 10:00 P.M.

Back in Little Rock, some of Foster's friends and former associates did not accept his death as a suicide. Former Arkansas state trooper and Clinton confidant L. D. Brown claimed that Foster and Hillary Clinton were in the middle of a "long torrid affair" which he claims she talked about with him "often during late-night chats in the Governor's mansion."

Most of the darker suggestions of Foster being murdered as part of a Clinton-linked cover-up stuck to the right-wing fringe, but it did not take long for them to make their way into the mainstream through well-funded anti-Clinton initiatives like the Arkansas Project. Eventually even the *Wall Street Journal* (whose editorial page had been particularly vehement in going after Foster before his death) was fanning the flames of conspiracy.

Since then, conspiracy theorists have continued to raise questions about they saw as forensic discrepancies at the death scene (the bullet was never recovered, for one). A Zogby poll five years after Foster's death revealed that 70 percent of the American public rejected the official story. During the 2016 president contest between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, the Republican candidate claimed that Foster's death was "very fishy."

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FOUNTAIN OF THE WORLD

In the 1950s Krishna Venta convinced his followers in the Fountain of the World cult that he was the present incarnation of Jesus Christ.

Krishna Venta gave birth to himself as a new incarnation of Jesus Christ in 1951, after long, arduous troubles with the law and a long string of failures in other more mundane endeavors. The messiah had been born in San Francisco in 1911 under the "earth name" of Francis Pencovic, and it was under that name that he had studied theology. In 1941, while living in Phoenix, Arizona, he was held and questioned by the police for allegedly writing a threatening letter to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Later, he transformed himself to "Frank Jensen" and committed a number of petty thefts and burglaries. It was sometime after he had been placed in a hospital for psychiatric evaluation that he received the supernatural word that he should metamorphose himself once again—this time into Krishna Venta.

Once he had convinced himself that he was the Son of God, it didn't take him long to convince others of his divine credentials. The mystic, resplendent in his yellow robes, persuaded his followers that in 1932 he had teleported himself to the United States from the Valley of the Masters below Mount Everest. He had lived in Nepal for centuries, having originally arrived on Earth in a spaceship from the planet Neophrates. He told his disciples that he was ageless.

As one might suppose, as the spiritual master of the Fountain of the World, Krishna Venta reserved the right to dally with whichever women he chose.

It seemed that in no time at all he had ordained a priesthood composed of donors to the cause of the Fountain of the World, as he called his enterprise, refusing admittance only to those who did not come bearing gifts. Beautiful women, however, could enter by virtue of their physical attributes.

A benefactor's large donation enabled the Fountain of the World to purchase twenty-six acres in beautiful Box Canyon, about forty-five miles northwest of Los Angeles. In the early 1950s a nonprofit corporation was formed in California with Krishna Venta as president. Under him were twelve disciples. All applicants were technically required to bequeath to the Fountain of the World all earthly wealth that they possessed.

From the beginning, Krishna Venta was determined not to be run out of the state by the authorities. He earnestly set about creating good public relations, training his followers in disaster aid and other socially helpful fields. Of special note was the skill of the Fountain of the World cultists as firefighters. Timber fires in that section of California were a menace, and when one was reported, Krishna Venta, at the command of his brigade, would speed to the scene in his station wagon to supervise the construction of firebreaks and trenches to combat the blaze.

As noble as all this might seem, what probably caused the messiah's downfall was his penchant for racing to the fires in the company of young, beautiful female disciples. He had the back of his station wagon outfitted with a mattress, and whenever there was a break in the firefighting, Krishna Venta would steal away with a lovely disciple.

The doctrine of the Fountain of the World allowed its members the unrestrained use of tobacco or alcohol, but it ordered a tight rein on their sexual desires. Krishna Venta did not want rumors of orgies and free love to excite his more conservative neighbors.

Most of the true believers went along with the cult's rules and got married before they engaged in any serious or regular sexual intercourse. As one might suppose, as the spiritual master of the Fountain of the World, Krishna Venta reserved the right to dally with whichever women he chose. On occasion, his sexual indulgence was cloaked under the guise of various subterfuges, some religious and some therapeutic. Most often, however, he simply willed into bed a host of mistresses.

Krishna Venta's image as a perfect savior began to melt. He went to Las Vegas and lost a great deal of money at the craps tables, claiming that he had done so only to see how the sinners conducted themselves in that city of glaring neon lights and clattering slot machines. He traveled to London on a missionary tour, but reports reached his followers that even though the British had given him a cool reception, he stayed in expensive hotels and lived in the grand style, as if he were a visiting rajah. Once back home in Box Canyon, he continued to eat nothing but the finest foods while his disciples were left to scrounge for themselves.

Finally, his annoyed followers began to question the validity of his messiahship. As is too often the case with cult leaders, Krishna Venta had failed in his relationships with his own subjects. Greed and sexual promiscuity had ensnared him, and he had come to believe his own pronouncements that he was truly what he proclaimed to be and just as invincible.

The spiritual straw that broke the faithful's back was the discovery by two disciples, Ralph Muller and Peter Kamenoff, that their wives had been summoned to their guru's private orgies in the back of the infamous station wagon. Such knowledge proved to be more than they could endure, and it became the catalytic element that brought them to the door of the Fountain of the World's administration building on the evening of December 10, 1958. When the bundle of dynamite borne by Muller and Kamenoff was detonated, the two-story administration building disintegrated along with Krishna Venta, his two assassins, and seven other members of the cult.

Though Fountain of the World carried on in some form until the 1980s, most of its members moved on. One survivor of the bombing, Erma Winfrey, was later one of the victims of the mass suicide at the People's Temple compound in Guyana.

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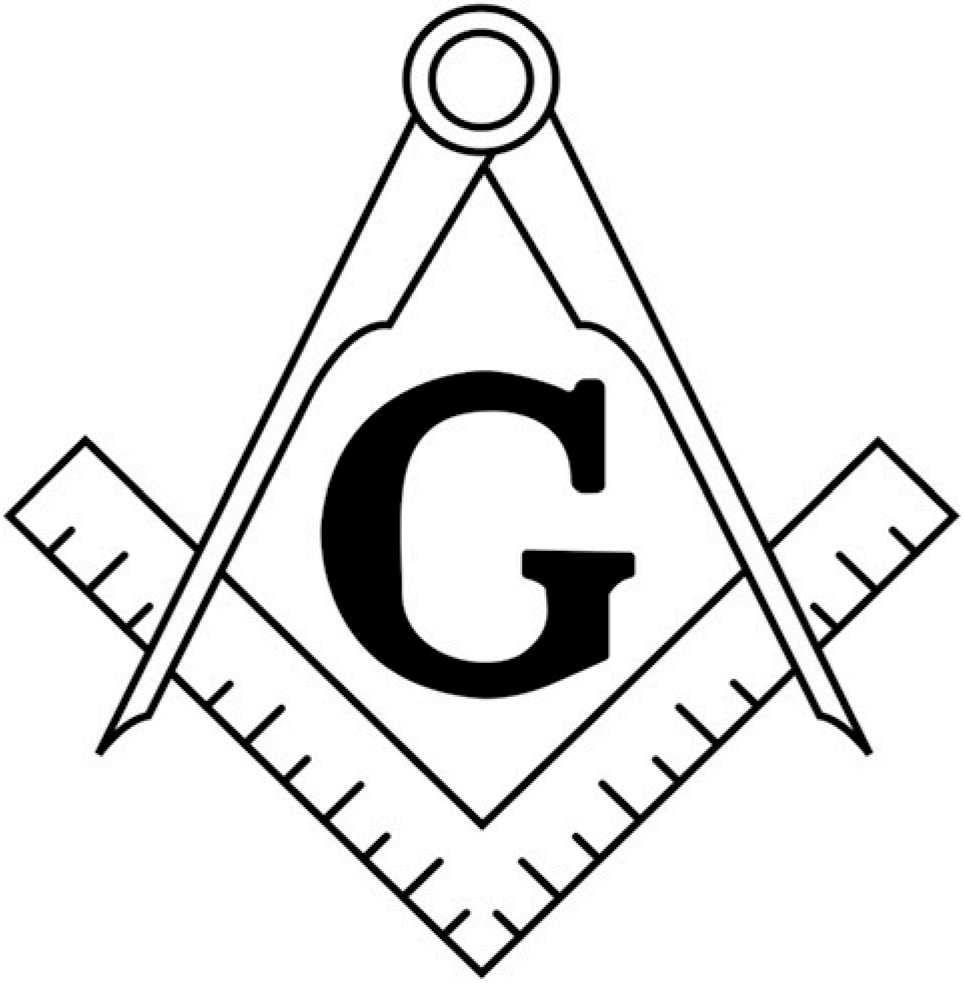
FREE AND ACCEPTED ORDER OF FREEMASONS

Servants of their Supreme Architect of the Universe, Lucifer, the Freemasons have plotted to take over the world since they labored on Solomon's temple—or so some believe.



The symbol of the Freemasons includes a square, a compass, and the letter G. The square represents morality, the compass is the ability to conduct one's actions with a measured response within moral boundaries, and the G represent God or, to some, Geometry.

As the Freemasons enter the new millennium, the order's membership in the United States is about two million and the average age is well over sixty. It seems that younger men are no longer attracted to an organization whose members receive such grandiose titles as Master of the Royal Secret, Knight of the Brazen Serpent, or Worshipful Master. As for being a secret society, the telephone numbers of Masonic lodges are in the directory and many of their oaths have been made public—for example: "You agree to be a good man and true; you agree to conform to the laws of the country in which you reside; you promise not to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against the government." Each year the Masons give millions of dollars to charities.

In 2005, as a wit has observed, the Masons are Laurel and Hardy heading for the Sons of the Desert convention to get away from their wives and party up; the secret rituals are Ralph Kramden and Ed Norton shaking their tails at the Raccoon Lodge; the reenactments of ancient traditions are Amos and Andy at the Mystic Knights of the Sea; the secret handgrips are Fred Flintstone greeting Barney Rubble with the secret word of the Water Buffalo, *ak-ak-a-dak*.

But there are those conspiracy buffs who see beyond the innocuous public image of the Freemasons and discern their true identity as a powerful secret brotherhood of darkness that is planning to take over the world. According to some scholars of the occult, the Masons' "Supreme Architect of the Universe" is none other than Lucifer, who cloaks himself in Masonic literature as Zoroaster, Shiva, Abaddon, and other pagan-god disguises. The so-called holy writings of Freemasonry, as well as their secret rites, passwords, initiations, and handshakes, have their origins in the Roman mystery religions, Egyptian rituals, and Babylonian paganism. Often linked to the Illuminati, Freemasonry is said to have exerted its influence on every aspect of American society—including its currency.

On the front of a one-dollar bill there is a portrait of George Washington, an avowed Mason, who donned his Masonic apron and presided over the dedication of the U.S. Capitol. The flip side of the bill displays both faces the Great Seal of the United States. The front of the seal depicts the spread eagle, arrows in one claw, olive branch in the other, and a banner proclaiming *E Pluribus Unum* ("Out of many, one") in its beak. On the seal's other side is an incomplete pyramid with an eye floating in a glowing triangle where the capstone should be. Above the eye is the caption *Annuit Coeptis*, commonly translated as "He has favored our undertaking," and in a scroll beneath is the slogan *Novus Ordo Seclorum*, "New Order of the Ages." Historians of the Masonic order state that the establishment of such a "new order" is an integral part of the ancient plan of the Freemasons, the Illuminati, and other nefarious groups to control the world. Former president George H. W. Bush's Masonic connections influenced his decisions in the Oval Office. Russia's premier Mikhail Gorbachev is a secret Mason who worked with Bush to institute a New World Order.

Most scholars agree that the pyramid represented on the bill is the Great Pyramid of Cheops at Giza, which, to a Mason, is emblematic of the continuity of the craft of Freemasonry from the dawn of civilization in Egypt. It is also a reminder of the legend that Egyptian civilization was founded by survivors from Atlantis and that the United States is the New Atlantis foretold by the great master Mason Sir Francis Bacon. The pyramid with the all-seeing eye represents the Great Architect of the Universe guiding the founding fathers of the United States to establish a nation that might one day reveal itself as the heir of the ancient mysteries of Atlantis and restore all humankind to the earthly paradise that existed in that Golden Age of old.

The central mythos of Freemasonry centers on the building of the great temple of King Solomon and Solomon's securing the services of the most accomplished architect in the world, Hiram Abiff, who designed the magnificent temple according to the precepts of the Great Architect of the Universe. Although Hiram is mentioned in biblical accounts as a master of the arts of construction, the rites of Freemasonry extend beyond the Bible and fashion a parallel myth, portraying Hiram as a primary figure in the creation of the temple. According to Masonic tradition, the ancient builders of Solomon's temple created the rites still practiced in modern lodges, with the various degrees of initiation and their secret symbols and handshakes.

By the mid-1700s Freemasonry had established its lodges throughout Europe and had been carried across the ocean to the New World by numerous immigrants.

While the Free and Accepted Order of Freemasons may claim to be the oldest fraternity in the world, historically it does not date back to the masons working on Solomon's temple—nor does it date, as some Masons vow, to those who labored on the Egyptian pyramids. Freemasonry evolved from the guilds of stonemasons who traveled from city to city in Europe of the fourteenth century looking for work on the great cathedrals being constructed at that time. The secret passwords and handshakes were unique ways by which a newcomer to a city might prove that he was a true member of the guild. Although there are references to Freemasonry as early as 1390, the structured fraternity as such did not come into being until 1717 when four London lodges united.

The Freemasons were nondenominational, asking only that members recognize a Supreme Being and seek somehow to better humanity through the course of their own lives. Because men of low rank could join and no religious philosophy was deemed superior to another, the lodges of Freemasonry became champions of the emerging concepts of democracy suffusing the Enlightenment. Such freedoms of thought and spirituality did not endear the organization to certain facets of established society, particularly the Roman Catholic Church, which condemned the fraternity as anti-Christian.

By the mid-1700s Freemasonry had established its lodges throughout Europe and had been carried across the ocean to the New World by numerous immigrants. George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Paul Revere, and many other of the founding fathers of the United States were Masons. A freed slave, Prince Hall, who was initiated into Masonry by a British soldier in Boston, later founded an African lodge, which became the still-extant Prince Hall Masons.

After the Revolution, Freemasonry became extremely powerful in the United States. Lodges sprang up in the smallest of villages, and it became an undeniable sign of prestige in any community to be a member. For businessmen who wished to succeed, it was almost a requirement to join the Freemasons.

The tragic death of one of its members in 1826 almost led to the near-annihilation of the Masons in the United States. William Morgan, a disillusioned Mason from Batavia, New York, let it be known that he was writing a book that would reveal all of Masonry's secrets to the world. The printer's shop that was going to publish his manuscript was torched, and a few days later Morgan was arrested on trumped-up charges that he was in arrears on a two-dollar debt. That night, a stranger arrived to pay Morgan's bail, and the dissident Mason was then seized by a group of his fellow lodge members and forced into a carriage as he screamed "murder." Neither Morgan nor his remains were ever found.

Three Masons were suspected of the kidnapping and assumed murder. But numerous trials were unable to secure any sentence longer than 28 months. A wave of anti-Masonic sentiment swelled in a country that was convinced its members had used their secrecy and loyalty to sway the prosecutions. A new Anti-Mason Party elected governors in Pennsylvania and Vermont and won seven electoral votes in the 1832 election. Suddenly, it was no longer prestigious to be a Mason. In state after state, lodges closed. Overall, the fraternity lost more than half its members. Future senator and President Abraham Lincoln's secretary of state William Seward began his political career as an anti-Masonist. But a suspicion of Masonry was not enough to sustain the movement and the party soon disappeared.

By 1845 Freemasonry began to revive in the United States, but it never again achieved the social status it had once enjoyed. In 1872 two Masons formed a kind of parody of the

Masons and named it the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, otherwise known as the Shriners.

Societal pressures began to lift. By 1897 the Masons had about 750,000 members. numerous other fraternal organizations, such as the Knights of Columbus, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Odd Fellows, and the Loyal Order of Moose sprang into being. In the 1950s the Masons reached their numerical peak in America with more than 4 million members. Depending upon the prejudices of the beholder, the Freemasons remain a fraternal group that donates generously to charities—or an insidious secret society bent on world conquest.

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FUKUSHIMA AND HAARP

The world was shocked when a huge 9.0 earthquake struck Japan, resulting in a devastating tidal wave that hit the eastern coast, wiping out entire towns and severely damaging the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. Was this actually due to natural causes?

On Friday, March 11, 2011, the world watched in horror as a 9.0-magnitude undersea earthquake—the most powerful ever recorded in the region—struck the northeast coast approximately 81 miles east of Japan's Oshika Peninsula of Tohoku near Sendai just minutes before 3:00 P.M. Within a few minutes the quake had triggered 33-foot-high waves. Entire towns and villages were swept away by the massive tsunami, and fears immediately arose concerning the power supply and cooling systems at Tokyo Electric's (TEPCO) reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Initial reports attempted to assuage global concerns by stating that damage was minimal and there was no cause for alarm. But on Saturday, an explosion had occurred in a building housing one of the reactors. By Sunday the government disclosed that 230,000 people had been evacuated from the area near the nuclear reactors. It became clear the power plant had been seriously damaged by the tsunami. Prime Minister Naoto Kan admitted to the world that Japan now faced its greatest crisis since World War II. Millions of residents were without power or water.

On Monday, March 14, a second explosion occurred at the damaged Fukushima plant, where courageous employees tried to repair the damage. The next day, when two more explosions and a fire shook the Fukushima plant, the radiation levels rose to such dangerous levels that authorities strongly recommend that people who lived as far away as twenty miles from the reactor stay indoors.

On March 17, a radioactive plume entered western North America and was moving toward the North Atlantic, where it was detected on monitoring sites. In Japan, the U.S. State Department recommended the voluntary departure of the families of the U.S. embassy staff. Other nations quickly followed suit and began to bring home the families of their embassy workers.

Workers measure radiation levels in the zone around Fukushima. The Japanese government recently announced the region outside of the power plant is safe to visit, except for the immediate surroundings.

The core of Number Three reactor was found to be damaged. By Saturday, March 19, abnormal levels of radiation were detected in dairy and garden products in the Fukushima area, and traces of radioactive iodine were found in tap water in Tokyo, 155 miles away from the damaged nuclear plant. By March 21, abnormal radiation levels were detected in food products in four prefectures. In a few more days, tap water in Tokyo yielded high readings of radiation levels, and officials warned that the levels were not safe for babies.

The Guardian opined on March 29 that Japan appeared to have lost the fight to save the nuclear reactor: "The radioactive core in a reactor at the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant appears to have melted through the bottom of its containment vessel … raising fears of a major release of radiation at the site."

By the end of March, the area of Fukushima went on maximum alert after high traces of plutonium were discovered in the soil. At least nineteen selfless workers at the site were exposed to high levels of radiation.

An estimated 20,000 dead were attributed to the tsunami. About 25,000 Japanese and U.S. soldiers were deployed to the northeast coast of Japan to search for victims of the disaster. The nation of Japan soon announced the beginning of an official rehabilitation and reconstruction phase.

International experts began speaking of Fukushima as being worse than the nuclear disaster in Chernobyl, which rocked the Ukraine in 1986 and is still contaminated today. They predicted radiation releases that would spread catastrophically across wide parts of Japan and the entire Northern Hemisphere. Some areas would be permanently contaminated, and millions of people could perish from deadly cancers.

By the close of 2011, radiation levels had reached fifty million times the normal levels in the ocean water off the coast of the Fukushima Daiichi facility. The alternative press was detailing such information and proclaiming the event as the worst radiological accident in the history of nuclear research, while the mainstream media largely reported that the radiation at the Fukushima had been contained. TEPCO, according to whistleblowers, had repeatedly and deliberately lied to the public. In December 2011, TEPC admitted that alarming quantities of radioactive strontium had leaked into the ocean and that the leaks were still continuing.

The Pacific Ocean provides the main source of protein for about one billion people in Asia alone. Ken Buesseler, senior scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, reported that Fukushima released ten to one hundred times more radiation into the ocean than the 1986 Chernobyl catastrophe.

The first debris from the tsunami began washing ashore on the West Coast of the United States in December 2011, a year earlier than predicted. Residents of Pacific coastal cities have found large quantities of bottles, cans, lumber, and other trash, the forerunners of the estimated nineteen million tons of debris from the Fukushima area floating across the Pacific, much of which was collected in the pre-existing Texas-sized Great Pacific Garbage Patch in the central North Pacific Ocean.

Almost from the day it happened, conspiracy theorists had begun to question whether the Fukushima disaster was the result of natural or technically engineered causes. Whenever the discussion occurred between conspiracists, the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) was named as the most likely villain that might have caused such a tragedy. Based in Gokona, Alaska, HAARP is a jointly managed U.S. Air Force/Navy weather warfare program that has been operating since 1992.

Almost from the day it happened, conspiracy theorists had begun to question whether the Fukushima disaster was the result of natural or technically engineered causes.

In its official website, HAARP acknowledges its ability to induce “a small, localized change in ionospheric temperature so that resulting reactions can be studied by other instruments located either at or close to the HAARP site.” Such researchers as Rosalie Bertell, president of the International Institute of Concern for Public Health, insist that HAARP can accomplish far more than “localized changes in temperatures.” Bertell describes HAARP as a “gigantic heater that can cause major disruptions in the ionosphere, creating not just holes, but long incisions in the protective layer that keeps deadly radiation from bombarding the planet."

In Bertell's opinion, while HAARP is presented to the public as a device for preparing the ozone or as a space shield against incoming weapons, it has the ability to "deliver very large amounts of energy, comparable to a nuclear bomb, anywhere on earth, via laser and particle beams."

Conspiracists have long claimed that HAARP has the power to trigger floods, droughts, hurricanes, tsunamis, and power blackouts over major cities and surrounding areas. To control the weather to cause an earthquake and tsunami like the Fukushima disaster would be well within its capabilities.

If HAARP was responsible for the worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl and a great loss of life and terrible economic suffering, why was Japan a target?

Some conspiracy theorists suggest that it was an awful miscalculation of the power of the electromagnetic mechanisms employed by HAARP. An experiment that was intended to test power on an area of open sea was misdirected to eighty-one miles east of Japan's Oshika Peninsula of Tohoku. More cynical conspiracists say that the powers operating HAARP for the New World Order did not make mistakes.

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GARDUNA

In 710 a hermit's vision of the Virgin Mary that appointed him savior of Spain and gave him the command to raise an army of holy warriors, the Garduña, was later transformed into a thriving criminal organization that still exists today.

According to tradition, around 710 C.E. a holy man named Apollinario, who lived a hermitlike existence in the hills above Cordova, had a vision in which the Blessed Virgin Mary appointed him to be the savior of Spain and drive the Moors out of the land. At first the holy man was stunned by the very suggestion, but when the Holy Mother presented him with a button that she said had been taken from the robe of Christ, Apollinario knew that he had been given the power to raise a band of holy warriors.

The hermit was blessed with a charisma that caused the common people to flock to his leadership. He told them that those who followed him in the Garduña, his sacred army, would be licensed by God and the Holy Virgin to destroy the invading heathens. There would be open warfare, of course, but they would also be free to plot murders and practice any kind of secret treachery. Those who joined the Garduña would be absolved of all wrongdoing as long as their violence was committed only against non-Christians. Thousands joined the holy man in his crusade against the Moors, and his ragtag army of peasants, beggars, and bandits fought so fiercely under the standard of the Holy Virgin of Cordova that no Moorish force could repel them.

While the Garduña may have harassed the powerful Muslim armies and conducted a guerrilla-type warfare against them, by no means did they drive the invaders from Spain, as legend tells. After about 714, the Gothic monarchy of Spain had been replaced by the conquering Arabs, and a short time after Spain had fallen to the Moors, it became the most prosperous and civilized country in the West. Within a few more years, the Arabs had extended their European empire north of the Pyrenees Mountains into the south of France and from the mouth of the Garonne to that of the Rhone. What remained of Gothic Spain had fallen into decay, deteriorating into a patchwork of petty princedoms, woefully ineffectual against the powerful Moors who had conquered most of the land and established their royal seat in Cordova.

In 732 Charles Martel of France stemmed the Muslim tide of conquest at the battle of Tours, and the Arabs retreated back to Spain, where they retained a peaceful possession of the country for many centuries. Cordova became a highly respected seat of art and learning, and the Arab philosophers became the sages of the West.

With the passage of time, the Garduña degenerated into a loosely knit criminal network controlled by the descendants of the mountain bandits who had followed Apollinario in his crusade against the Moors. Deception and murder were still practiced on a large scale by the Garduña, and they maintained the old dictum that only the blood of non-Christians was to be shed. Perhaps the Garduña would have vanished completely into legend if fifteenth-century Spain had not become a Christian nation and King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella I had not so avidly supported the mission of the Inquisition and that of its chief heretic hunter in Spain, Tomás de Torquemada.

Until the Inquisition, Moors, Jews, and Christians had for centuries lived quite peacefully in Spain. But Ferdinand reasoned that the Moors and the Jews had grown too powerful and too rich. How much farther he could extend the Spanish Empire if he were to acquire their wealth. Ferdinand recalled the stories of the Garduña, who killed only non-Christians, and he summoned their leaders to meet with high officers of church and state. These officials told the bandit chiefs that they must once again become holy warriors and a weapon of terror against all heretics. All their sins would be forgiven. All their crimes would be pardoned. They were to become a secret society of murderers with the full approval of church and state.

For over a hundred years, the Garduña murdered, raped, and looted on the orders of the Inquisition. Their victims were always non-Christians or those suspected of being heretics. By 1670 the Inquisition withdrew its support from the Garduña, but the holy warriors became a secret cult within the church and continued their attacks against all those who held beliefs contrary to the teachings of Christianity. When the church itself withdrew its recognition of the Garduña, they became a secret society, maintaining always that everything they did was an expression of God's will and any alleged crime they might commit was free of any taint of sin.

When the church itself withdrew its recognition of the Garduña, they became a secret society, maintaining always that everything they did was an expression of God's will….

During the eighteenth century the Garduña expanded its profile of potential victims to include Christians, as well as unbelievers, and they began selling their services of murder, kidnapping, robbery, and so forth to anyone who could afford them. They became so powerful and daring that if any member of the society should be caught and imprisoned, the others thought nothing of attacking the prison and freeing him.

In 1822, in an era of social reform in Spain, police entered the home of the Grand Master in Seville, arrested him, and confiscated all his documents. Remarkably, the Garduña had kept meticulous records of all of their various criminal activities from 1520 to that date. The Grand Master and sixteen district chiefs were publicly hanged in the main square of the city. Members of the other ranks of the Garduña scattered and resumed a life of banditry in the mountains.

The Garduña gave evidence of their survival as a secret society throughout the Spanish Civil War when their battle cry of "Remember the Virgin of Cordova!" was heard. Some historians say that the Garduña established their own church, blending their concept of unorthodox Catholicism with a kind of "holy socialism." With alleged branches allegedly in Portugal and South America, as well as Spain, the Garduña continues to flourish as criminal secret society nearly thirteen centuries after its conception by the hermit Apollinario.

The legend of the Garduña's origins resembles that of El Cid, the heroic knight who defended northern Spain from the invading Moors in the eleventh century. No longer legend, the secret society continues to this day in a criminal organization not dissimilar to the Mafia.

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JIM GARRISON

Jim Garrison stubbornly maintained that there was a conspiracy to kill JFK.

Three days after President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas on November 22, 1963, New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison arrested David Ferrie as a possible associate of the alleged assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald. Word had reached Garrison that the FBI had found Ferrie's library card in Oswald's wallet. Law-enforcement officers in New Orleans were quite familiar with the mysterious Ferrie and suspected him of having several links to the city's crime scene. Garrison turned the case over to the FBI, and on December 6, 1963, two weeks after the assassination, Director J. Edgar Hoover abruptly closed the investigation of David Ferrie.

Born Earling Carothers Garrison in Denison, Iowa, in 1921, Jim was still a child when his family moved to New Orleans. He joined the U.S. Army in 1941 and was commissioned as a lieutenant in the field artillery in 1942. He received tactical flight training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and served during World War II as a pilot in France and Germany. After the war, Garrison earned law degrees at Tulane Law School. Shortly after graduation he joined the FBI as a special agent, serving in the Seattle and Tacoma region. Soon dissatisfied with his assignment of investigating the loyalties and associations of applicants for defense plant employment, Garrison returned to New Orleans and accepted the post of assistant district attorney in 1954. After working as a trial lawyer from 1958 to 1961, he won the office of district attorney of New Orleans in a runoff in 1962.

Because of the thinness of Garrison's evidence, some have charged that his campaign against Shaw had more to do with personal animus, homophobia ..., and a need to hang his byzantine conspiracy web on somebody.

Imposingly tall, with a deep voice and a penchant for high theatrics—he led a series of high-profile raids in the French Quarter with cameras rolling—Garrison cut a dashing and flamboyant figure who was tailor made for a crusade. After Louisiana senator Russell Long confided to Garrison in 1964 that he did not accept the Warren Commission's findings that Oswald had acted alone, the district attorney began doing his own digging. In the fall of 1966 Garrison began an independent inquiry based on the assumption that the assassination of Kennedy had been the result of a conspiracy.

When Garrison announced in February 1967 that one of his chief suspects was David Ferrie, he placed Ferrie in protective custody. Garrison's theory was that the web of connections between a colorful cast of New Orleans-linked characters—Ferrie, Oswald, former FBI agent Guy Banister, and wealthy businessman Clay Shaw—many of whom had at least tenuous ties to anti-Castro Cuban exiles and the CIA and were known to espouse anti-Kennedy rhetoric indicated that at least part of the assassination had been planned not in some rogue security agency's office but New Orleans. (A key aspect of Garrison's case relied on his belief that Oswald's professed pro-Cuban and Communist beliefs were merely a front to set him up as a convenient patsy.) On February 22 Ferrie was found dead in his apartment with two strangely typed messages that appeared to be suicide notes. The New Orleans coroner officially ruled Ferrie's death due to cerebral hemorrhage.

In March 1967 Garrison arrested and charged Shaw with complicity in the assassination of Kennedy. It took exactly two years for Garrison to shepherd the case against Shaw through an exhausting legal marathon of motions, continuances, and appeals—but it took a jury less than an hour to acquit Shaw of all charges. Because of the thinness of Garrison's evidence, some have charged that his campaign against Shaw had more to do with personal animus, homophobia (Shaw's being gay was an open secret in New Orleans, and Garrison had built part of his career on shutting down gay bars), and a need to hang his byzantine conspiracy web on somebody.

Though ultimately Garrison's investigation led to nothing from a legal standpoint, his dogged pursuit and publicizing of the idea that Kennedy had been murdered as part of a right-wing coup made him one of the most successful spreaders of the various assassination theories that eventually became practically mainstream beliefs.

Garrison retained the office of district attorney of New Orleans until 1973. Long a frustrated writer, he ultimately published a number of books, including *A Heritage of Stone, The Star-Spangled Contract*, and *On the Trail of the Assassins*, the last of which was used as the basis for the Oliver Stone motion picture *JFK*. From 1978 to 1988, Garrison served as judge of the Court of Appeals in New Orleans. He died on October 21, 1992.

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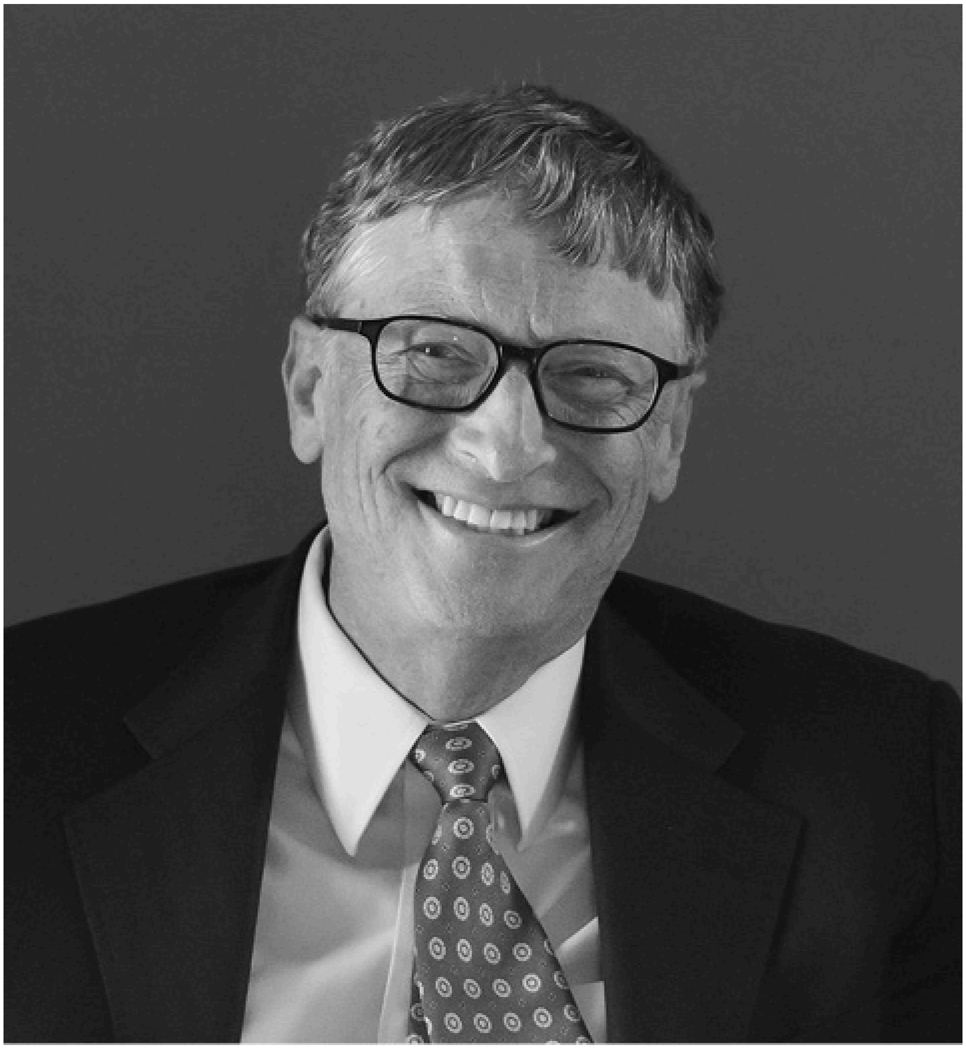
BILL GATES

The bespectacled and besweatered Microsoft founder and philanthropist is charged by some with being, in fact, a card-carrying member of a global elite hell-bent on controlling humanity through any means necessary.

The first technology baron of the internet age whose name was known by everyday people, Bill Gates, was a brainy, edgy, and socially awkward kid who set the template for many Silicon Valley entrepreneurs to follow when he dropped out of Harvard University in 1975 to cofound the early software company that brought computing to the masses: Microsoft. In 1981, IBM's decision to use Microsoft's MS-DOS operating system for its first PC put the company on the map. Within a few years, Microsoft had become the default software and OS provider for all IBM-standard PCs. This delivered the company and Gates enormous wealth but also a degree of power that many saw as ominously monopolistic. Gates downplayed his reputation in some circles as a cutthroat competitor who produced a substandard product by presenting himself as a nerd's nerd, writing earnest books and making self-deprecating media appearances. Ironically, it was what he did after leaving Microsoft that made him a conspiracy theory magnet.

In 2008, Gates stepped down from his daily duties at Microsoft (though he stayed on the board for a few more years) to devote himself full time to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The spectacularly well-endowed philanthropy—which was also generously founded by fellow billionaire Warren Buffet—has worked on a range of charitable endeavors ranging from education to poverty but focused primarily on health care in the developing world. Even though the foundation's avowed purpose leans toward combating diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS, its massive reach has been viewed with suspicion by a large set of conspiracy theorists. They see Gates not as a dorky programmer-turned-world-saving philanthropist but as a globalist villain bent on world domination. His wealth and power and his foundation's emphasis on family planning and vaccines have all contributed to anti-Gates theories, which include:



One of the most influential Americans in the late-twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, Bill Gates cofounded Microsoft, one of the most powerful tech companies in the world.

- The Gates Foundation's vaccination drives in Africa are one of its many population limitation tools. A doctored photo that was popularized online showed a fake image of a Gates Foundation building inscribed with the name "Center for Global Human Population Reduction."
- Gates Foundation vaccination drives were also accused of being used to test unproven vaccines on children (supposedly resulting in thousands of deaths).
- The Gates Foundation tetanus vaccine used in Kenya was charged with including abortion drugs.
- Gates being the largest private owner of American farmland is a cover for his push to control the world's food supply.
- Funding of climate change research at Harvard masks Gates's plan to block out the sun.
- Gates created (and possibly patented) the COVID-19 virus with Dr. Anthony Fauci and then used the vaccines that followed not only as an avenue of profit but a way to insert trackable microchips into the vaccinated.

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THE GEMSTONE FILE

This legendary document claims to uncover the true powers that controlled the world from the 1930s to the 1970s…and possibly beyond.

The Gemstone File was one of many purported guides to the constellation of wealthy, powerful titans who control the world that gained wide readership in the years following the Warren Commission report. Starting in 1975, a document called *The Skeleton Key* circulated in conspiracy circles as a short sheaf of photocopied pages that the author (Stephanie Caruana, assistant to ace conspiracy radio host Mae Brussell) claimed to have distilled down from *The Gemstone File*, over 1,000 pages of handwritten notes by a man named Bruce Porter Roberts. Very little is known about Roberts except that he picked up a lot of his intel at a San Francisco bar called the Drift Inn, where CIA types apparently liked to booze up and spill the agency's deepest and darkest secrets. Roberts had also apparently learned how to create synthetic jewels, some of which he bartered for intelligence (thus the title *The Gemstone File*) and others he claimed were stolen by Howard Hughes for use in "laser beam research."

The main thrust of *The Skeleton Key*'s four-decade-long history is that starting in the 1930s, Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis began consolidating power with the Mafia, oil companies, Joseph Kennedy, and the U.S. government (including then vice president Richard Nixon, whom Onassis controlled after he drugged and kidnapped Howard Hughes, who had already "purchased" all major American politicians), ultimately giving him fantastic amounts of control over the course of world history. According to *Key*, once the Kennedy family *père* (who had secured Onassis's help to swing the 1960 election in his son Jack's favor) had a stroke in 1961, this created an opening for Jack and Bobby to push back on the Onassis–Mafia–Nixon nexus. That starts the familiar tangle of the Cuba-linked intrigue leading up to Jack's assassination—in which *Key* wraps up several preexisting conspiracy theories by identifying Oswald as the designated "patsy" in a four-man "Mafia–CIA–Castro assassination team"—after which Onassis took full control of the American government, with the Mafia and seemingly omnipotent puppet masters like Nelson Rockefeller, Gerald Ford, and Henry Kissinger playing the media and the public like an organ. Anybody who knew anything was killed with a sodium morphate dose (which *Key* claimed was "a favorite Mafia poison for centuries") designed to look like death by suicide or natural causes.

Key ends with a plea for readers to copy the document and spread it by hand to "friends or politicians, groups, media" in order to save the day. Its final warning states that "the game is nearly up. Either the Mafia goes—or America goes."

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GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

Humans have been changing the crops and animals they eat for millennia through selective breeding. But once scientists began changing the actual genetic code in different food products, some people began to worry.

The history of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) stretches back over 30,000 years. For the vast majority of that time, humans used artificial selection to create new or different species of animals and varieties of crops ranging from corn to apples that were easier to raise and provided more bang for the buck. Once scientists first cracked the secret of direct genetic engineering in 1973, though, it became possible to directly tweak the genetic code of an organism rather than having to spend generations breeding for different traits. In the mid-1990s, the FDA began approving genetically modified crops for planting. Two decades later, over 80 percent of the corn and soybeans grown in the United States was a GMO, heavily weighted toward varieties designed to be more resistant to insects, herbicides, and drought.

SAY NO TO
GMOs
Poison

Humanity has been modifying food for generations, but only recently has this been done through genetic manipulation, a process many distrust as possibly dangerous to our health and the health of the planet.

From the start, some people have been concerned about scientists tinkering with genetic codes with little to no oversight. Activists have demanded more regulation, particularly in order to avoid accidental cross-pollination of modified plant breeds with wild breeds that could have a negative environmental impact. Some conspiracy theorists have pushed back on so-called "Frankenfoods," which they see as nothing more than another ploy by the powers that be to manipulate people's bodies and minds, while others have raised an alarm that willy-nilly food tampering could be introducing carcinogenic toxins into the food supply. One of the most persistent conspiracy theories has involved the development of Golden Rice, a strain genetically modified to fight vitamin A deficiencies, which afflicts hundreds of thousands of children each year in poorer African and Asian countries. Although the rice's developers insist that they are part of a humanitarian effort and would distribute the rice to poor farmers free of charge, conspiracists suspect that Golden Rice is simply a Trojan horse for the introduction of another potentially dangerous and corporate-profiteering organism into the food supply.

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GERM AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE

Although some form of germ warfare has been used by opposing armies for thousands of years, conspiracy theorists believe new batches of laboratory designed "superbugs" are being created on orders from the New World Order.

Germ (or biological or chemical) warfare is not a new concept. Centuries before anyone knew anything about bacteria or viruses, germ warfare was employed as a weapon of death and annihilation. History tells us that the Assyrians of the sixth century B.C.E. routinely poisoned their enemies' wells with a fungus that caused hallucinations. In the Middle Ages opposing armies would catapult diseased animal and human corpses into their foes' encampments or over their city walls. During the European conquest of North America, blankets infected with smallpox were distributed to Native Americans in another nascent form of biological warfare.

As may be noted by reading about the use of excrement, rotting corpses of animals, diseased portions of humans, and the microscopic agents of smallpox and other diseases, biological warfare is the utilization of any organism or toxin found in nature in an attack against one's fellow humans. While some advocates have issued hollow arguments that germ warfare might be a benign method of disabling one's enemies, the truth is that its intent is to kill.

After biological weapons were used for the first time on a mass scale in World War I, the nightmarish results led to their being outlawed by the Geneva Protocol of 1925. But within just a few years, those same supposedly illegal weapons were back in use.

1937 - 45: During Japan's occupation of parts of China, its infamous Unit 731 conducted gruesome biological experiments that resulted in the deaths of thousands of Chinese.

1941: In response to the bioweapons being developed in Japan and Nazi Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada established their own biological warfare programs and produced anthrax, brucellosis, and botulinum toxin that could be used in war.

1942: British tests with anthrax spores so contaminated Gruinard Island, Scotland, that it was quarantined for forty-eight years. That same year, the U.S. Chemical Warfare Services began mustard gas experiments on approximately four thousand servicemen.

1950: In an experiment to determine how susceptible an American city would be to biological attack, the Army decided to stage one of their own: Operation Sea-Spray. In September 1950, a Navy minesweeper off the San Francisco coast spent six days spraying clouds of the microbe *Serratia marcescens* (chosen for its habit of forming easily spotted pink streaks) to see how far and wide they would drift. The Army's classified report noted that "a successful BW [biological warfare] attack on this area can be launched from the sea, and that effective dosages can be produced over relatively large areas." But this test came with casualties. Ten people were hospitalized, and one man died from an infection. The connection was not made clear until the military admitted it in a 1977 Senate investigation.

1950s: The CIA's Operation Big City was designed perfect a method of producing a substance that the U.S. military could spray over an enemy city and render its inhabitants unable to resist. In one experiment, agents drove for eighty miles around New York City in a car whose exhaust pipe had been modified to deploy a hallucination-causing gas. In another test, operatives equipped with nasal filters boarded the New York subway with battery-powered emissions equipment fitted into suitcases to test the effect of LSD on people in confined areas. In 1957 CIA inspector general Lyman Kirkpatrick issued an internal memo that cautioned operatives to use utmost secrecy to protect the operation not only from enemy intelligence, but also from the American public in general. The worry was that if the American people learned the CIA was engaging in unethical activities, such knowledge could become detrimental to the Agency's mission.

French paratroopers are shown here preparing for an exercise involving biological weapons. Advances in genetic manipulation make the threat of wars fought with viruses and bacteria even more terrifying than it was in the past.

1969: The Department of Defense requested $10 million from Congress to develop a synthetic biological agent for which no natural immunity existed. Funding for the synthetic biological agent was granted under H.R. 15090. The CIA supervised the Special Operations Division at Fort Detrick, Maryland, the army's top-secret biological weapons facility.

1972: The Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention reinforced the prohibition of all chemical and biological weapons. The international ban pertained to nearly all production, storage, and transport of such biological agents. However, numerous researchers believe that the secret production of such weapons actually increased.

1977: Senate hearings on Health and Scientific Research confirmed that 239 populated areas had been contaminated with biological agents between 1949 and 1969. Some of the cities included San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Minneapolis, St. Louis, and Key West and Panama City, Florida.

1981: With a dangerous outbreak of dengue fever slashing across Cuba, Fidel Castro knew who was responsible. At a speak in Havana, Castro pointed the finger at the CIA. While the U.S. State Department issued a fierce rebuttal, the historical record shows that Castro was not entirely misguided in his denunciation. The CIA's years-long campaign of sabotage against Cuba had included biological elements. In 1971, the Agency supplied some Cuban exiles with the virus that causes African swine fever. The resulting outbreak on the island led to a half million pigs being slaughtered. Years later, a Cuban exile testified that in 1980 a ship left Florida for Cuba with "a mission to carry some germs to introduce them in Cuba … to begin what was called chemical war."

1983 - 84: In an attempt to turn the tide in their war with Iran, Iraq first deployed mustard gas on the battlefield in 1983. The following year, Iraq became the first nation to use nerve agents in a combat setting. Despite Iran's complaints to the international community about the breaking of the Geneva Protocol and the horrifying effects of Iraq's weapons. The lack of any serious condemnation from the U.S., the UK, France, and the USSR fueled suspicions that some of those powers were supplying Iraq with these outlawed munitions.

1984: The cult of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh conducted the first act of bioterrorism in U.S. history the old-fashioned way when they attempted to influence a local election by infecting restaurants and salad bars with salmonella. Over nine hundred people became ill as a result of ingesting food laced with salmonella.

1986: A report to Congress stated that the new generation of biological agents included modified viruses, naturally occurring toxins, and agents that were altered through genetic engineering to prevent treatment by all existing vaccines.

1987: The Department of Defense admitted that regardless of treaties banning research and development of biological agents, it operated 127 research facilities throughout the nation.

1991: The U.S. military was frequently accused of using various biological and chemical weapons in the Gulf War. Often mentioned was the charge that the hallucinogenic "BZ" was sprayed over Iraqi troops, causing them to surrender as passive, drooling zombies with vacant stares.

1994: It was revealed that many returning Desert Storm veterans were infected with an altered strain of *Mycoplasma incognitus*, a microbe commonly used in the production of biological weapons.

1996: The Department of Defense admitted knowledge that Desert Storm soldiers were exposed to chemical agents.

2001: In September and October, the U.S. experienced a number of well-publicized attacks on government workers, politicians, and the media that delivered deadly anthrax spores through the mail. Five deaths resulted from this domestic terrorism. Although the initial assumptions were focused on foreign threats, a massive but flawed manhunt eventually pointed to the culprit being Dr. Bruce Evans, a biodefense researcher at Fort Detrick's United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (MSAMRIID). Evans killed himself in 2008 just as he was about to be charged with murder.

2004: Dangerous "superbugs" began popping up out of nowhere. Suddenly there were cases of flesh-eating bacteria, fatal pneumonia, and life-threatening heart infections—seemingly all caused by mutating strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* that shrugged off penicillin as a duck shakes off rain. Conspiracy theorists were quick to denounce government experimentation in labs such as those at Fort Detrick as being responsible for these new drug-resistant viruses. Others suggested that the very idea of superbugs was invented by the medical establishment.

2016: When the Zika virus outbreak in 2016 began gaining international attention, panic soon followed. The sudden spread of the disease and its unusual characteristics—spreading as it did not just by mosquitos but through sexual intercourse—led many to wonder whether more was going on than met the eye. One popular theory claimed pharmaceutical companies were manufacturing a way to sell vaccines. Monsanto was also blamed. At one point, about a third of Americans believed that Zika was being spread by genetically modified mosquitoes. That claim pointed the finger at Oxitec, a British company that *does* actually genetically modify mosquitos, but in order to help combat dengue fever.

2021: Numerous people posit that the sudden eruption of COVID-19 into a world-spanning pandemic, its apparent origin in a city (Wuhan, China) with multiple biomedical research labs, the unusual nature of the coronavirus and its fast-mutating properties, all pointed toward it being a manmade biological weapon.

U.S. Navy and CIA biological warfare laboratories made good use of Traub and other Nazi experts in their germ and chemical warfare research.

Many conspiracy theorists link the continued manufacture of biological weapons to what they believe is a secret elite mandate to decrease global population. They pointed out connections between Litton Bionetics, the CIA, and especially Germany's I. G. Farben Company, the chemical and pharmaceutical cartel that helped sponsor Hitler's rise to power and was a crucial part of the Nazi war effort. It was primarily Rockefeller money that built the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Eugenics, Anthropology, and Human Heredity in pre-Nazi Germany, and it was Rockefeller cash that installed Ernst Rudin, Hitler's chief racial hygienist, as the institute's director.

Operation Paperclip, the secret project that brought thousands of Nazi scientists to the United States at the close of World War II, included Erich Traub, a world-class virologist who had served as Hitler's biological weapons chief. U.S. Navy and CIA biological warfare laboratories made good use of Traub and other Nazi experts in their germ and chemical warfare research.

Kanatjan Alibekov (Ken Alibek) was second in command at the Soviet Union's Biopreparat bio warfare section before emigrating to the U.S. in 1992. Later a key biodefense proponent and researcher, Alibek has stated that even after the USSR signed a treaty banning such research, Biopreparat employed ten thousand scientists at forty sites.

The advent of genetic manipulation meant that ever-more specific deadly designer viruses could be created. Recombinant engineering potentially allows for the highly contagious influenza virus to be spliced with botulism or the toxin from plague. The Soviet bio warfare scientists were attempting to combine the venom-producing genes from poisonous spiders with ordinary bacteria.

The smallpox virus is said to be particularly amenable to genetic engineering. The deadliest natural smallpox virus is *Variola major*, and an outbreak of it would especially deadly now because the disease was eradicated from the planet in 1977. The smallpox vaccine dissipates after ten to twenty years, so unless someone has had a reason to be vaccinated against the disease recently, no one today is immune. The last known human case of smallpox appeared in Somalia, but no one can guess how many canisters of the lethal virus reside in government laboratories awaiting deadly use in biological warfare.

Conspiracy researchers name the Ebola virus as an ideal biological weapon because of its potential to kill nine out of ten infected humans within three weeks of contact. Conspiracists state that the virus first emerged in three European vaccine-production laboratories virtually simultaneously in 1967 (one strain is named "Marburg" because one of these labs is in Marburg, Germany). Scientific consensus has it that this virus arrived in Europe in a shipment of nearly five hundred African monkeys from Kitum Cave near the West Nile region of Central Africa. Kitum Cave, some conspiracy theorists state, is really a Litton Bionetics research lab where scientists experimented on primates and African villagers.

In April 2005 the World Health Organization (WHO) reported an Ebola-like virus spreading rapidly through seven of Angola's eighteen provinces. The initial outbreak appeared to have spread from a pediatric ward in Uige, about 180 miles north of Luanda. Most of the victims of the virus were children. Over a dozen health-care workers had died from the disease, and those who remained were deserting hospitals and clinics. In one village, terrified people had attacked WHO workers out of fear of catching the disease.

Medical professionals perform a practice drill in case of a severe Ebola outbreak. The deadly virus is one of many that could easily be turned into a weapon or be integral in a plot to reduce the world's population.

Again, conspiracy theorists point to their belief that the financial and political elite have a plan to greatly reduce Earth's population, leaving the survivors to toil as their servants. The delivery of combinations of biological and chemical agents, if conducted properly and secretly, cannot easily be traced to its source. If a population of an "undesirable area" should be subjected to multiple exposures and infections over time, they would perish—and save the New World Order the trouble and expense of conducting a conventional military campaign.

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GOLD

A history-spanning symbol of everything from wealth to greed to illusion, gold has in the last couple of centuries become the focus of a conspiracy theory in which the yellow metal represents stability in a chaotic world.

Well into the nineteenth century, the official currency of the United States operated on what is known as the "gold standard." This meant that even though day-to-day cash transactions were handled by paper scrip, that currency represented a certain value of gold held in a bank's vaults, which people were technically supposed to be allowed to redeem. However, the ever-growing size of the economy was outstripping the available amount of gold. As the century drew to a close, a surge of conspiracy theorizing occurred that the gold standard was, in fact, controlled by a cabal of Wall Street bankers.

When President Franklin Delano Roosevelt took the United States off the gold standard in 1933, this inflamed ideas that he was working with an operative of international financiers through the (still controversial) Federal Reserve System. More recently, suspicions over manipulation of the money supply inspired recurring waves of so-called "gold bugs" to hoard the metal as a solid-seeming hedge against what they saw as an inflation-prone financial system built on sand. Some of these conspiracy theorists found it suspicious that the federal government does not allow outsiders into its gold bullion depository in Fort Knox, Kentucky, and demanded an audit to prove that the over 5,000 tons of gold bars supposed to have been there were not stolen and possibly replaced by fakes.

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GREAT PYRAMID OF CHEOPS

The nine or more secret rooms in the Great Pyramid on the plateau of Giza contain proof that the ancient monuments of Egypt are thousands of years older than previously believed and quite likely constructed with the help of extraterrestrials.

Rising up on the plateau of Giza, ten miles west of present-day Cairo, Egypt, the Great Pyramid, its two companion pyramids, and the Sphinx are probably the world's oldest and best-known mysteries. The Pyramid of Cheops stands 481 feet high, measures roughly 756 feet on each side, and covers thirteen acres of land. For more than four thousand years, it was the tallest architectural structure on earth. It has been estimated that more than 2,300,000 stone blocks of an average weight of two and one-half tons each went into the construction of this last resting place for the pharaoh Cheops (also known as Khufu) circa 2550 B.C.E. The Pyramid of Khafre, near Cheops, stands 442 feet high and covers twelve acres. The third pyramid in the massive triumvirate, Mycerinus, is 215 feet tall and 346 feet wide on each side. The only still-intact structures of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the pyramids are situated at cardinal points on the compass and indicate knowledge of astronomy and mathematics in advance of other civilizations.

Among the questions swirling about the pyramids are the following:

1. Where was the immense amount of rock forming them (11 million cubic yards of stone for the Great Pyramid alone) quarried, and how it was moved and then erected into such an astonishingly precise structure?
2. What kind of surveying methods and equipment did the ancient Egyptians use to ensure that the landscape was level and their measurements were accurate?
3. How could the vast number of workers required for such an undertaking be mobilized, housed, and fed?
4. All three of the pyramids at Giza were supposedly erected as tombs. Why has not a single body been found in any of them?

A baffling series of chambers, tunnels, shafts, blocked passageways, corridors leading to empty spaces, and false leads confront pyramid explorers. Numerous Egyptologists and antiquity researchers have noted the presence of nine or more secret rooms in the Great Pyramid. However, the contents of those fabled hiding places remain unknown to all but a few. Some researchers contend that the secret rooms hide solid proof that the ancient lost civilization of Atlantis was in fact responsible for the pyramids' construction.

Others insist that the dusty corridors house undeniable evidence of extraterrestrial colonies that thrived on Earth in our prehistory. Proponents of the ancient astronaut theory maintain that such massive works as the pyramids were built by intervening extraterrestrials, who used the power plants of their flying saucers to hoist such tonnage into place. Spaceships of vast proportions may have brought extraterrestrial colonists to various parts of Earth before returning to their home planet.

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Edgar Cayce, the famous "Sleeping Prophet" of Virginia Beach, Virginia, predicted the existence of secret rooms in the Great Pyramid and beneath the right paw of the Sphinx. According to Cayce, who made his prophecies in the 1930s and '40s, the fabled Atlantean Hall of Records would be discovered in Giza before 1998. It is known that the presence of such secret chambers was confirmed in 1994 by classified high-tech radar photographs taken by NASA's space shuttle.

In 1996 much fuss was made over a video that had reportedly been made of one of the secret rooms. Although a network television presentation ballyhooed a peek inside the legendary chambers, millions of disappointed viewers were able to see only a shaky film produced by a videocam attached to a small, four-wheeled robot as it crept down a corridor in the Great Pyramid. Allegedly the tunnel had never before been opened for the eyes of modem humans, and an audience of millions were teased into believing that they were about to behold a revelation of earthshaking importance. But the tunnel and the supposed secret chamber showed us nothing.

In 1997 the archaeologists Mark Lehner and Zahi Hawass excavated a grid of rooms near the Great Pyramid, and Lehner believes that an entire additional complex might be unearthed, providing more answers, and probably more questions, about the pyramids of Giza. Lehner, associated with the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago and the Harvard Semitic Museum, first traveled to Egypt during the 1970s, inspired by the theories of Cayce, who believed that the pyramids were actually thousands of years older than they were credited. In 2013, amateur German archaeologists secured access to some of those chambers and were later charged with stealing items which they believed would prove their belief that it was built by Atlanteans.

A great number of researchers believe that at least one of the hidden chambers in the Great Pyramid will contain a full-sized aerial vehicle of ancient terrestrial or extraterrestrial design.

Physician and aeromodeller Khalil Messiha believes he found evidence that the Egyptians had flying machines as early as the third or fourth century B.C.E. Messiha developed this theory after looking through a box of bird models at the Cairo Museum which had been unearthed at Saqqara in 1898. One wooden glider has a distinctive wing shape that bears a striking resemblance to the American Hercules transport plane. Messiha is certain that it is no toy model. It is too scientifically designed, and it required a lot of skill to make. His brother, a flight engineer, agrees with him and adds that the aerofoil shape of the models demonstrates a "drag effect" evolved only recently after many years of aeronautical engineering research.

Most of the bird figures that have been found at excavations in Egypt are half-human, half-bird in design, but this object is very different. It seems to be a model of a high-winged monoplane with a heart-shaped fuselage, which assumes a compressed ellipse toward the tail. Messiha and several researchers are convinced that it is a scale model of a full-sized flying machine of some kind that was actually flown by the ancient Egyptians.

The discovery of such an aerial vehicle in the Great Pyramid would completely revolutionize the way that academics and scientists view the ancient Egyptians and other forgotten cultures of human prehistory. Lost civilizations, such as Atlantis, would have to be taken very seriously. Some researchers believe that many scholars and others in authority simply do not want such information made available to the masses. The religious and scientific establishments fear that the great majority of men and women would not be able to deal with irrefutable evidence that there was a world civilization before our own.

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GREAT REPLACEMENT THEORY

According to some White supremacists, nefarious groups are encouraging the expansion of America's non-White population in order to "replace" them.

When white supremacists shouted "You will not replace us" and "Jews will not replace us" during their August 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, those phrases were new to many people. But the words have a years-long history in that movement, drawing on not just xenophobia and racism but long-gestating conspiracy theories about changing demographics in the United States and parts of Europe.

"The Great Replacement" was popularized in a 2012 book of that name by French writer Renaud Camus. He believed that White, Christian Europeans were being marginalized by the increasing numbers of non-White, often Muslim immigrants and refugees from the Middle East and Africa. This aligned with the beliefs of the White, nationalist European Identitarian movement, the members of which thought that larger numbers of different races in Europe was essentially a genocide against White people. White supremacist groups in the United States began to amplify the same message, only sometimes using different ethnic targets than their European counterparts.

Supporters of the Great Replacement theory often draw on conspiracy theories to explain their worldview. Most of those theories state that global elites are purposefully causing demographic changes that disenfranchise White people. Frequently, those elites are characterized by White supremacists as Jewish. Several terrorist attacks, from the 2018 killings at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh to the 2019 attack on two mosques in New Zealand, appeared to directly draw on Great Replacement ideas.

More recently in the United States, the Great Replacement conspiracy theory has jumped from White supremacist circles to mainstream conservative discourse, being frequently and openly alluded to by right-wing cable news hosts and Republican politicians.

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WHITE SUPREMACY

Resistance and protests against Unite the Right rallies has been strong across the United States.

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THE GREAT RESET

A Davos initiative supposedly meant to address global inequality and climate change is seen by some as just another plan for controlling humanity.

In June 2020, the World Economic Forum (better known for its Switzerland location, Davos) gathered a Who's Who of world leaders to present a vaguely optimistic grand design for creating "a better form of capitalism." Called the "Great Reset," it resembled several previous Davos initiatives in its call for more attention to environmental concerns and global inequality, only that year, its reformism was focused largely on the dangers presented by the still spreading COVID-19 pandemic.

Later that year, conspiracy theorists began spreading their concerns that the Great Reset was little more than an out-in-the-open secret plan for using pandemic lockdown measures as an excuse for the elites to finally exercise total control over humanity. An especially virulent set of concerns were raised by the fringe Catholic Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, who wrote a letter about the Great Reset to President Donald Trump in which he warned that "a global elite" was pushing an "infernal project" in which an international "health dictatorship" would force vaccine compliance and imprison all dissenters in detention camps. More mainstream conspiracy popularizers linked the Great Reset to existing worries that "global elites" could camouflage their diabolical schemes for undermining traditional values and possibly even ending the human race entirely under the guise of humanitarian do-goodism. Never to be outdone, anti-Semitic conspiracy theorists posited that the Great Reset was a plan to set up a Zionist One World Government.

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GULF OF TONKIN INCIDENT

This event helped to prove the rule that when a leader wants to have a war, an incident can generally be fabricated to provoke one.

On July 31, 1964, the U.S. Navy destroyer *Maddox* began a reconnaissance mission in the Gulf of Tonkin, a body of water that lies on the east coast of North Vietnam and the west coast of Hainan Island, China. On August 2 the destroyer C. *Turner Joy* joined the *Maddox*, and the two warships set out on a "DESOTO patrol," an intelligence/espionage mission, checking out the radar and coastal defenses of North Vietnam. When the *Maddox* was attacked by North Vietnamese torpedo patrol boats, the U.S. destroyer returned fire and was joined in the fight by the *C. Turner Joy*. Warplanes sent by the *Ticonderoga* added to the firepower. They sank one torpedo boat and reported damaging others.

The USS Maddox was targeted by Vietnamese gunboats on August 2, 1964, but then two days later reported another attack that did not actually happen. The events compelled the U.S. Congress to grant President Johnson the authority to launch attacks against Vietnam, leading to the infamous war.

On August 4 the two destroyers were once again on reconnaissance in the Gulf of Tonkin when radar signals indicated that they were under attack by North Vietnamese patrol boats. For two hours the warships fired vigorously on radar targets and maneuvered to evade what they believed to be visual sightings of enemy boats. Once again, the *Ticonderoga* launched Crusader jet warplanes. The two destroyers fired 249 five-inch shells, 123 three-inch shells, and four or five depth charges to repel their attackers.

That night, network television in the United States was interrupted at 11:36 P.M. so that President Lyndon B. Johnson could inform the nation that U.S. warships of the Seventh Fleet on duty in the Gulf of Tonkin had been attacked by North Vietnamese PT boats. LBJ then explained that in response to "open aggression on the open seas" against our ships, he had ordered air strikes on North Vietnam.

On August 7 the U.S. House and Senate passed the "Tonkin Gulf Resolution," stipulating that the president could "take all necessary measures to repel armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression." By July 1965 the U.S. had sent 80,000 troops to South Vietnam. By early 1969 there were 543,000 U.S. military personnel deployed to Vietnam, and 400 tons of bombs and ordnance per day were being dropped on the enemy. When the United States withdrew in 1975, at least one million Vietnamese and 58,000 Americans had died in the conflict.

The Gulf of Tonkin incident on August 4, 1964, was a significant factor in U.S. involvement in a war that sharply divided the nation along class and generational lines.

But the attack probably never happened.

Two days earlier, North Vietnamese forces in Russian-made "swatow" gunboats had attacked the *Maddox*, but from the outset many doubted that anything had happened on August 4. Tapes released by the LBJ Library at the University of Texas at Austin include fifty-one phone conversations from August 4 and 5. Even LBJ said that for all he knew, the ships could have been shooting at whales. A 1:59 P.M. EDT August 4 phone conversation with Lieutenant General David Burchinal of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Admiral U. S. Grant Sharp, commander of the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet, contained such comments as "many of the reported contacts and torpedoes fired appear doubtful" and "probably overeager sonar men" and "freak weather effects on radar."

Bob Richter, writing in the *San Antonio Express-News*, said, "The released tapes neither prove nor disprove what may have happened that night, but they do indicate jittery sailors in a tense area thought they were under attack." James Stockdale, a navy aviator who responded to the alleged attacks on the *Maddox* and *Turner Joy*, has declared the Tonkin Gulf incident all "hogwash." Stockdale was later shot down and spent eight years in a Vietnamese prisoner of war camp. In 1992 he was Ross Perot's running mate in the presidential election. In his 1984 book *In Love and War*, Stockdale writes, "I had the best seat in the house to watch that event, and our destroyers were shooting at phantom targets—there were no PT boats there. There was nothing but black water and American firepower."

Even at the time of the incident, skeptics felt that many in the government were only looking for an excuse to initiate bombing in Vietnam, and the Gulf of Tonkin "attack" provided that excuse. However, scholars who have listened to the LBJ tapes seem to have formed a general consensus that the incident was not engineered, but was a mistake. David Crockett, a presidential scholar at Trinity University, labeled the incident an accident but adds that the greater mistake was that Congress gave LBJ a "virtual blank check to make war." The bitter irony, Crockett observed, is that LBJ had campaigned on the promise that he wouldn't send American troops to die in Asian wars.

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GULF WAR SYNDROME

When American troops returned home from the 1991 Gulf War, many began suffering from mysterious ailments and believed that the military was covering up something.

When the United States and its allies invaded Iraq in 1991, they achieved a rapid and crushing victory over the forces of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Some even called it the "100-hour war." However, for many service members, the effects of the war lasted far more than 100 hours. Prior to the invasion, Hussein had been manufacturing many biological and chemical weapons of the kind he had used to a devastating effect during the Iran–Iraq War and also against his own people. But although some people were concerned that he would deploy those same weapons against the allied invaders, that never seemed to happen. Or did it?

Once troops started coming home, a large number of them began describing horrific and debilitating symptoms. Close to 10 percent of the nearly 700,000 U.S. veterans of the war reported a dizzying range of symptoms from headaches and blurred vision to rashes, hair loss, extreme fatigue, insomnia, and bleeding gums. Consistently, testing and medical examinations found no cause for how they were feeling. Even though Gulf War Syndrome (GWS) soon became well known in the public, the military and government continued to insist that the troops had not been exposed to chemical weapons in the Gulf, with some suggesting that the rash of symptoms were the result of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Many soldiers who returned to the United States from the Gulf War suffered debilitating symptoms of Gulf War Syndrome. Possible causes ranged from pesticides and depleted uranium to the nerve gas antidote troops received.

As a result, many veterans began to believe that the military was hiding evidence of such attacks as a way of skimping on paying for health care, echoing the fight many Vietnam War veterans faced seeking treatment for Agent Orange-related illnesses. In the face of what looked like obstructions, rumors spread about a variety of other possible causes that the military was covering up, covering a toxic stew of dangerous exposures from the demolition of Iraqi weapons depots to radioactive debris from depleted uranium antitank shells to the clouds of smoke from oil well fires set by retreating Iraqi soldiers.

Years later, the Pentagon admitted that thousands of soldiers may have been exposed to nerve gas in the depot demolitions. In 1996, CIA analysts Patrick and Robin Eddington quit the agency in protest because of what they saw as stonewalling of the truth. In his research, Patrick believed he had discovered evidence of Hussein using chemical weapons in the fighting.

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GUN CONTROL

Congress often tries and fails to pass gun control legislation. Some pro-gun conspiracists believe that their opponents are trying to control not just weapons but the American people.

The continuing debate over gun control in the United States means only one thing to many conspiracy theorists: another plot by global elites who would rather subdue an unarmed populace. The conspiracists cite the U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment's declaration that "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed," as one of the best ways to deter the New World Order from trying to conquer America. Their opponents also cite the Second Amendment, but the first part, which they argue limits gun rights to "A well regulated Militia."

Since it is the nature of conspiracy theorists to distrust government, a strong devotion to gun ownership is deeply embedded in many of their philosophies. This is particularly the case with anti-government militias espousing conspiratorial beliefs. Federal raids on such groups frequently uncover massive caches of weaponry ranging from legal firearms to illegally procured "weapons of war" (fully automatic assault rifles, anti-tank weapons, explosives). These arsenals are generally planned for use in scenarios ranging from self-defense in the societal collapse that many apocalyptic-minded conspiracy groups foresee to outright insurrectionary terrorism.

Just days before the 1995 militia-inspired Oklahoma City domestic terrorist bombing, the NRA sent a fundraising letter comparing government agents to Nazis.

Pro-gun conspiracy theorists often equate any attempt to limit citizens from buying the kind of weapons they want to keep on hand to overthrow a globalist-infiltrated government as not only an intolerable assault on their constitutional rights, but a preamble to extermination. Hardline pro-gun advocates such the National Rifle Association (NRA) regularly connected gun control to tyranny during the 1990s. Just days before the 1995 militia-inspired Oklahoma City domestic terrorist bombing, the NRA sent a fundraising letter comparing government agents to Nazis. That rhetoric continued to intensity in following decades.

Following the COVID pandemic shutdowns and Black Lives Matter protests in 2020, militia- and white-supremacist-linked groups ranging from the Three Percenters to the Oath Keepers made it a point of pride to attend public gatherings in full combat gear with assault rifles. An increasingly common argument in circles that overlap with mainstream right-wing conspiracy theories is that dictatorships which outlaw private gun ownership like Nazi Germany, Communist China, and the Soviet Union do so to make it easier for them to control and exterminate vast numbers of people. Though this line of thinking is often debunked by those who point to how easily the Wehrmacht defeated other advanced armies and would likely not have been troubled by a few civilians with rifles, it is an article of faith among many conspiracy theorists who see gun ownership as the best way to defend against their extermination by the One World Government. Conversely, some of those theorists are themselves involved in their own conspiracies, such as members of the military and state security apparatus in countries like U.S. and Germany who have been discovered secretly plotting mass casualty terror attacks and amassing arsenals for government overthrow.

Gun ownership also figures prominently in conspiracies that crop up around mass shootings. Theorists such as Alex Jones and others have pushed the specific idea that school killings such as at Sandy Hook in 2012 and Parkland in 2018 were at the very least staged events and possibly even entirely fake (some believe that the murdered students and teachers were not actually dead and that people interviewed by the press were trained "crisis actors"). To the conspiracists' way of thinking, no matter how many bereaved parents or shattered survivors they see, these were staged moments invented or hyped solely as an excuse for instituting gun control and controlling the masses.

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HAARP

Conspiracy theorists warn that the true purpose of this mysterious research station is to gain control of all communication and navigation systems, as well as the weather.

Located in an extremely remote spot about eight miles north of Gakona, Alaska, the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) was built in the 1990s by the U.S. military and was for years jointly managed by the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) and the Office of Naval Research (ONR) before being turned over to the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2015. The stated goal of this sprawling site—180 antennas about seven stories tall—was studying Earth's ionosphere, which can affect military and civilian communication and navigation systems.

Conspiracy theorists think otherwise. Despite government reassurances, many conspiracy theorists see HAARP quite differently than its staff and the researchers who use its facilities. Authors Nick Begich and Jeane Manning (*Angels Don't Play This HAARP*) were outspoken about the dangers and hazards of the AFRL and ONR developing and deploying a system based on the pioneering work of the genius Nikola Tesla. Many other scientists, environmentalists, and conspiracy researchers have taken up the warning cry first sounded by Begich and Manning. Some conspiracists have serious concerns, namely:

- HAARP could boil the upper atmosphere. It is a test run for a super-powerful radio-wave-beaming technology that raises areas of the ionosphere by focusing a beam and heating those areas. Electromagnetic waves then bounce back to Earth, penetrating everything, living and dead.

- Plumes of atmospheric particles could act as a lens that scorches some areas of the planet. Ozone levels in the atmosphere could be artificially increased and concentrated in specific areas.
- In a burst lasting only a few minutes, HAARP will produce a long tear in the ionosphere's delicate molecular configuration.
- HAARP can be used to wipe out communications over a very large area. Specific beams can be established to form a network of communication to serve shadow-government or New World Order agencies even though the rest of the world's communications are disrupted or shut down.
- The Department of Defense may have investigated using HAARP for weather control, climate disruption, polar ice cap melting, earthquake engineering, and brain wave manipulation.

The researchers who have taken over HAARP after the military insist that all the facility can really do is very briefly heat up small patches of the ionosphere so that they can study the effects. Because the ionosphere is where auroras take place, these heating experiments sometimes result in an artificially created airglow.

The stated purpose of the HAARP array was to research the ionosphere and use the information to develop advanced radio and surveillance technology.

But in the view of many conspiracy theorists, HAARP is, plain and simple, a weapon of mass murder and destruction that has been used often in recent times. These theorists are convinced that HAARP weather and tectonic attacks caused the Myanmar Cyclone on May 3, 2008 (80,000 dead), the Sichuan Earthquake in China on May 12, 2008 (68,000 dead), the Haiti Earthquake of January 12, 2010 (92,000 dead and 1.8 million homeless), and the Fukushima Earthquake and Tsunami on March 11, 2011 (16,000 dead, thousands missing, and 770,000 buildings destroyed or partially destroyed).

According to conspiracy theorists, HAARP has three major weapon-system components: space-based, which weaponizes the Earth's ionosphere; air-based, which uses chemtrails as a frequency reflector from its ground and space base; and ground-based, which energizes the stations in Alaska, Greenland, Norway, and Australia. They further believe that HAARP was built as an arsenal of atmospheric weaponry, capable of waging weather and earthquake warfare, as well as target groups or individuals with electromagnetic harassment and mood manipulations.

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FRED HAMPTON

When Black Panther leader Fred Hampton was killed by police in 1969, it looked less like an arrest gone badly and more like a political assassination.

In the late 1960s, the Black Panther Party was making headlines with its incendiary revolutionary politics and grassroots organizing in poor, Black neighborhoods. But while the primary locus of the party was in California, other chapters had also sprung up around the country. One of the most energized was the Illinois chapter largely due to the influence of its charismatic young chairman, Fred Hampton. A fiery Marxist–Leninist with a gift for rhetoric and bridge building, Hampton broke out from a strictly Black Panther approach to politics and worked to build a cross-racial working-class alliance to fight what he saw as an oppressive capitalist police state. Hampton's electrifying speechmaking and potential broad revolutionary appeal likely put him in the crosshairs of the FBI.

As part of their COINTELPRO campaign, the FBI pressured William O'Neal, a teenaged criminal, to infiltrate the Panthers, supply information on Hampton, and help them breed dissension in the group. In 1969, the Panthers and Chicago police engaged in two separate shootouts, which caused multiple casualties and fatalities on both sides. It all came to an end on December 4, 1969. Early that morning, 14 Chicago police officers (supplied with intelligence provided by O'Neal) raided Hampton's apartment, unleashing a seven-minute-long fusillade of gunfire that resulted in the deaths of two Panthers, including Hampton, who was just 21 years old at the time.

Later investigations revealed that even though the police had called it a gunfight, the Panthers had only fired one shot.

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HANGAR 18

Could an alien life form have crashed in the New Mexico desert in 1947 and been kept alive ever since in a highly secured area at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio?

According to UFO researchers, on July 2, 1947, an alien spaceship crashed during a violent thunderstorm in a remote area of the desert northeast of Corona, New Mexico. Personnel dispatched from Roswell Army Air Base to clean up the area discovered alien bodies in the wreckage, one of whom was still alive. The surviving alien was taken to Hangar 18 at Wright Field (now Wright-Patterson Air Force Base) in Dayton, Ohio. In some variations of the report, all the aliens were dead, and it is only their refrigerated corpses that are kept in Hangar 18.

Two years before his death in the late 1990s, pilot Oliver "Pappy" Henderson swore at a reunion of his World War II bomber crew that he had flown the remains of four alien bodies out of Roswell….

In recent years, accounts from both civilian and military eyewitnesses to the 1947 events in the New Mexico desert speak of five alien bodies found at the impact site and state that four corpses were transported to Hangar 18 at Wright Field, the fifth to the air force's mortuary service at Lowry Field in Denver. Two years before his death in the late 1990s, pilot Oliver "Pappy" Henderson swore at a reunion of his World War II bomber crew that he had flown the remains of four alien bodies out of Roswell in a C-54 cargo plane in July 1947.

In their book *UFO Crash at Roswell* (1991), Don Schmitt and Kevin Randle include an interview with Brig. Gen. Arthur Exon in which he states that, in addition to debris from the wreckage, four tiny alien cadavers were flown to Wright Field: "They [the alien bodies] were all found, apparently, outside the craft itself. The metal and material from the spaceship was unknown to anyone I talked to. [The event at] Roswell was the recovery of a craft from space."

In his subsequent research Randle determined that most eyewitness accounts speak of five alien bodies found at the impact site. His investigations confirm the claims made previously by other researchers that four corpses were transported to Wright Field and the fifth to Lowry Field. Numerous secondary accounts, however, maintain that one of the aliens survived the crash and was still alive when the retrieval unit arrived on the scene. Some UFO researchers believe that as late as 1986 the alien entity was still alive and well treated as a guest of the air force at Wright-Patterson. It became known to many investigators that the extraterrestrial being's favorite flavor of ice cream was strawberry.

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HASHSHASHIN

The Hashshashin, a cult of highly trained Muslim assassins, were one of the deadliest of all secret societies.

Regarded as one of the most fearsome of all secret societies, the Hashshashin seemed capable of striking down any victim or penetrating any security. They moved as if they were deadly shadows and struck with a fury that shattered the nerves and the resolve of their most stalwart foes. Because the Hashshashin had been indoctrinated to believe that death in the pursuit of orders guaranteed an immediate transference to Paradise, they fought with a fury untouched by the normal fear of dying in combat.

Most of the early members of the secret society were followers of the Nizari branch of the Isma Iliyya sect of Shiite Muslims and were located primarily in Syria and Persia. In 1090 Hasan ibn Sabbah seized the mountain citadel of Alamaut in northern Persia and made it his "Eagles' Nest," a center where he, as grand master, could live in relative safety and direct his forces throughout Asia. Hasan became known as the "Old Man of the Mountains," (gaining a brief mention as such in Marco Polo's travel writing) and he set about creating a fanatical organization composed of devotees, known as *fedayeen*, who did whatever he commanded with blind obedience.

The name of this secret society of killer, Hashshashin, was originally derived from the Arabic *hashish*, based on the accusation made by European Crusaders that the fierce warriors made liberal use of the drug's narcotic effects to build courage and to eliminate any fear of death. The name became so associated with secretive killing that it introduced the word *assassin*.

Hasan ibn Sabbah frequently bought boys from poverty-stricken parents and reared them in camps where he trained them to be skilled murderers, leading them step by step to higher levels of killing proficiency. At the same time that he was shaping them into deadly warriors, he indoctrinated them spiritually, convincing them that as they advanced under his leadership they would come closer to the sacred and ultimate mystery that only he could reveal. Hasan told them that the conventional teachings of Islam had misled them. Paradise could not be attained by following the teachings of Muhammad, but only by complete obedience to Hasan ibn Sabbah, who he taught was the true incarnation of God on earth.

Hasan supplied his young soldiers with generous amounts of hashish, then hypnotically guided them in a visual meditation to the lavish gardens of heaven, where they were allowed to witness the beauty of the afterlife. When the youths regained full consciousness, they believed unequivocally that they had been allowed a glimpse of their future dwelling place in Paradise.

Although the Hashshashin came to be feared by kings, princes, sheikhs, sultans, and Christian Crusaders, their membership probably never included more than two thousand *fedayeen* at any one time. Masters of disguise and fluent in many languages and dialects, they might one day appear as simple peasants working around a castle wall and the next emerge as deadly warriors springing on their victims from the shadows.

The Hashshashin inveigled themselves into the services of many rulers by posing as loyal soldiers or servants but always awaiting the bidding of their grand master. A powerful sultan who defied the orders of Hasan might suddenly find himself mercilessly attacked by men he had regarded for many years as trusted servants. As the power of Hasan's secret society became known throughout the East, a monarch never knew which of his seemingly faithful retinue was really an Assassin only awaiting orders to murder him.

Between 1090 and 1256 there were eight grand masters who ruled the society of Assassins. In 1256 and 1258 the Mongols virtually destroyed the sect in Iran and in Syria. Although the Hashshashin scattered throughout the East and into Europe, in 1272 the Mamluk sultan Baybars brought about their downfall as an organized sect.

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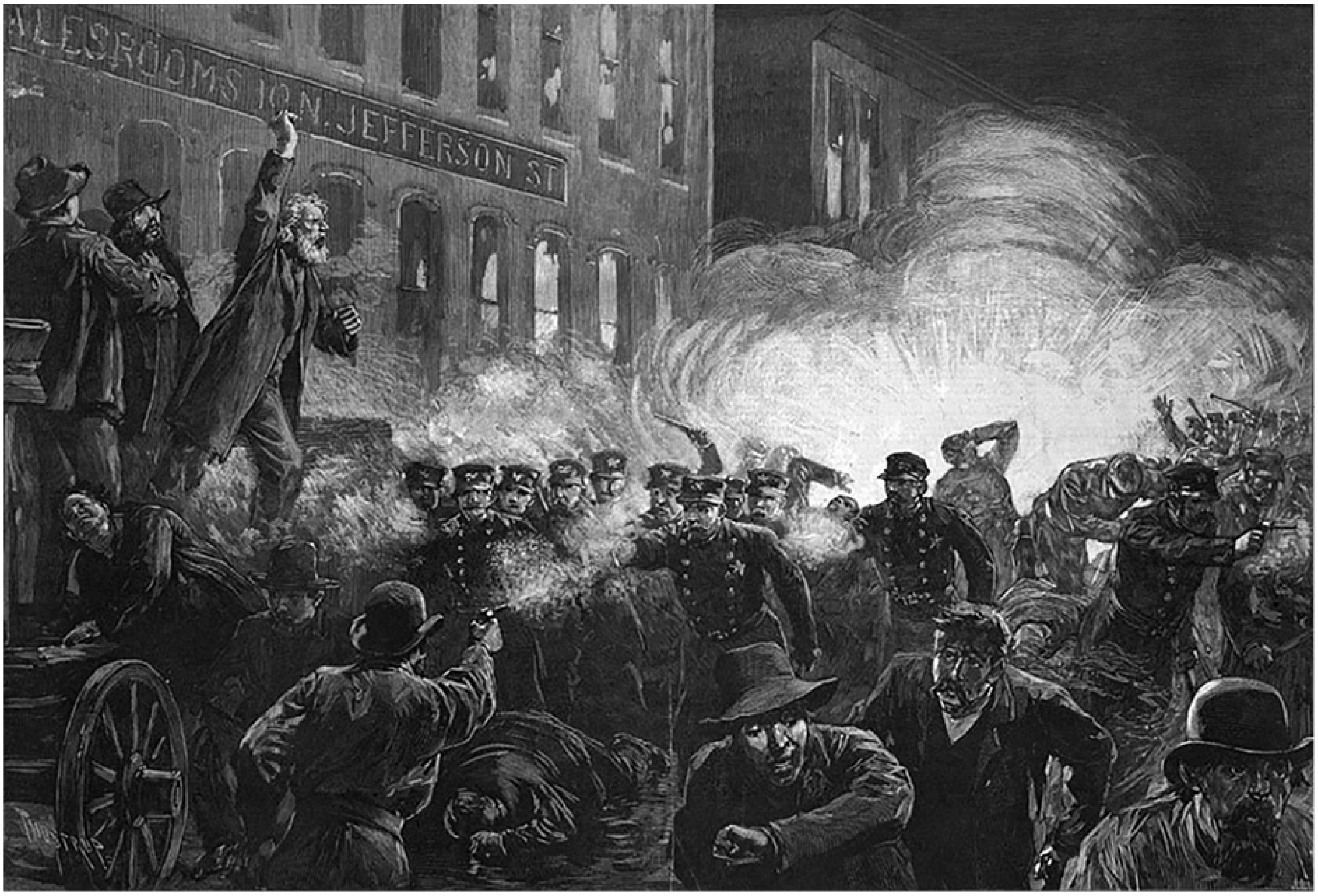
HAYMARKET BOMBING

One of the largest acts of terrorism ever committed on American soil, the Haymarket bombing remains shrouded in suspicion and mystery.

On May 1, 1886, the International Working Peoples Association (IWPA) called a strike throughout the United States in support of an eight-hour workday. Strikers clashed with police across the city. On May 3, the IWPA in Chicago held a rally outside the McCormick Harvester Works, where 1,400 workers were on strike. Soon, 6,000 strikers from other manufacturers joined the crowd to hear a speech by IWPA leader August Spies. Chicago police arrived and fired into the crowd, killing four men.



An illustration of the Haymarket's Riot was published in the May 15, 1886, issue of Harper's Weekly.

On May 4 Spies published a leaflet in English and German entitled *Revenge! Workingmen to Arms!* in which he called upon the striking workers to show courage and not meekly accept the supreme will of their employers. If they were men, Spies challenged, they would rise up in their might and destroy the hideous monster that sought to destroy them. Later that day Spies distributed another leaflet calling for a mass protest that evening at Haymarket Square.

Over 3,000 people came out for the labor protest and enthusiastically cheered speeches by Spies, Albert Parsons, and Samuel Fielden. When Captain John Bonfield and 176 policemen arrived on the scene, Bonfield ordered the crowd to disperse. Before the mass of protesters had an opportunity to comply or resist, someone threw a dynamite bomb into the police ranks, killing an officer. If the police had been looking for a pretext to make some arrests, this was it. In the carnage that followed, seven more officers died, while an untold number in the crowd were killed and wounded.

In what was later called America's first "Red Scare," authorities were quick to take advantage of the tragic incident, using it as an excuse to round up local anarchists and anyone they deemed suspiciously sympathetic to workers' rights or socialistic causes. Ultimately seven people connected with the revolutionary and libertarian socialist movement—Samuel Fielden, August Spies, Adolph Fisher, Louis Lingg, George Engel, Oscar Neebe, and Michael Schwab—were arrested and charged with conspiracy to murder. IWPA Chicago head Albert Parsons initially dodged his warrant but emerged from hiding just before the trial began to stand alongside his comrades. Although dozens of witnesses swore that none of these men had thrown the bomb, the case against them was that they had made incendiary speeches and written inflammatory articles that had led the unnamed bomb-thrower to attack the police at Haymarket Square. Xenophobic prejudice (many of the accused were immigrants) played a part in the trial's outcome.

Parsons, Spies, Fisher, Lingg, and Engel were given the death penalty and ordered to be hanged. Neebe, Fielden, and Schwab were sentenced to life imprisonment. On November 10, 1887, Lingg committed suicide by exploding a blasting cap in his mouth. Parsons, Spies, Fisher, and Engel were hanged the following day.

Many people around the world believed that the leaders of the IWPA had not received a fair trial. Several investigators who made a serious study of the case claimed that Rudolph Schnaubelt had been hired to throw the bomb by representatives of the businesses under strike restrictions. In 1893 John Peter Altgeld, newly elected governor of Illinois, issued pardons to Oscar Neebe, Samuel Fielden, and Michael Schwab.

The theology of Heaven's Gate was born in the cosmic revelations received by Applewhite and Nettles sometime around 1972.

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HEAVEN'S GATE

Bo and Peep gained worldwide attention in 1975 when it was feared that their Human Individual Metamorphosis cult had abducted twenty Oregonians in a spaceship. Twenty-two years later, they gained even greater notoriety when the UFO cult committed mass suicide.

"Bo" (Marshall Herff Applewhite) and "Peep" (Bonnie Lu Trousdale Nettles), the founders of the Heaven's Gate cult, achieved national media attention when a September 14, 1975, lecture on UFOs in Waldport, Oregon, ended with several people in the audience joined up, cutting ties with everything and everyone they knew and leaving town. Despite pleas from concerned relatives, it soon seemed that the group's newest members had chosen of their own free will to join Bo and Peep on their spiritual pilgrimage.

The theology of Heaven's Gate was born in the cosmic revelations received by Applewhite and Nettles sometime around 1972. That was the year they formed the Christian Arts Center in Houston for the declared purpose of increasing people's spiritual potential through lectures on comparative religion, mysticism, meditation, and astrology. During that time, the pair was creating a philosophical blend of apocalyptic Christianity and UFOlogy.

Although previously married to others, in 1974 Applewhite and Nettles, said that they were not married but were living together "by spiritual guidance." They stated that they had renounced sex in preparation for their journey to the "Father's Kingdom," and invited others to join them in the process that they called Human Individual Metamorphosis (HIM).

Applewhite and Nettles began to refer to themselves as "Bo" and "Peep" or "the Two," and proclaimed they had awakened to their true extraterrestrial origins. As benevolent aliens, they had come to Earth to demonstrate how the human body could undergo a dramatic metamorphosis, just as the chrysalis changes from caterpillar to butterfly.

Bo and Peep compared themselves to Jesus and asserted they were the "two witnesses" referred to in the book of Revelation as the harbingers of a great harvest time for humanity: "And they ascended to heaven in a cloud and the remnant were affrighted and gave glory to the God in heaven." (Rev. 11:13)

The Two did not promise an easy path to higher awareness. They instructed their followers that they must walk out the door of their human lives and take with them only what would be necessary while they were still on the planet. Newcomers were advised that the process worked best if they had a partner and that they would be paired with one. Those who joined the HIM group committed to carrying the word to the rest of humanity. A remarkable number of highly educated professionals left high-salaried jobs, expensive homes, and loving spouses and children to follow the Two on a journey of faith that would have them living hand-to-mouth and sleeping under the stars.

When the much-promised demonstration of the couple's death and resurrection was repeatedly postponed, disillusioned members dropped out, leaving Bo and Peep and their most faithful followers to take their ministry underground. In 1985 Bonnie, who at that time called herself "Ti," died of cancer and, in the words of an ardent follower, "returned to the next level."

Applewhite, now "Do," carried on their mission of informing humans that salvation hovered overhead in a spaceship. He also warned earthlings that their planet was at the mercy of alien star gods, the "Luciferians." In 1995, after renaming the cult Heaven's Gate, Applewhite and his most devoted disciples moved to San Diego, California, and established a computer business, Higher Source, which specialized in designing Websites.

In 1996 Do and his followers became excited about the approach of the Hale-Bopp comet, believing that it was the sign for which they had been waiting. They decided to hasten their "graduation from the human evolutionary level" through self-administered poison and by so doing hitch a ride to the Father's Kingdom on the extraterrestrial spacecraft that they believed followed in the wake of the comet's tail. On March 26, 1997, Applewhite apparently became convinced that he had found at last the narrow window of opportunity for that graduation. His body and those of thirty-eight followers, all having committed suicide by various means, were found throughout the rooms of the group's spacious Rancho Santa Fe mansion outside of San Diego.

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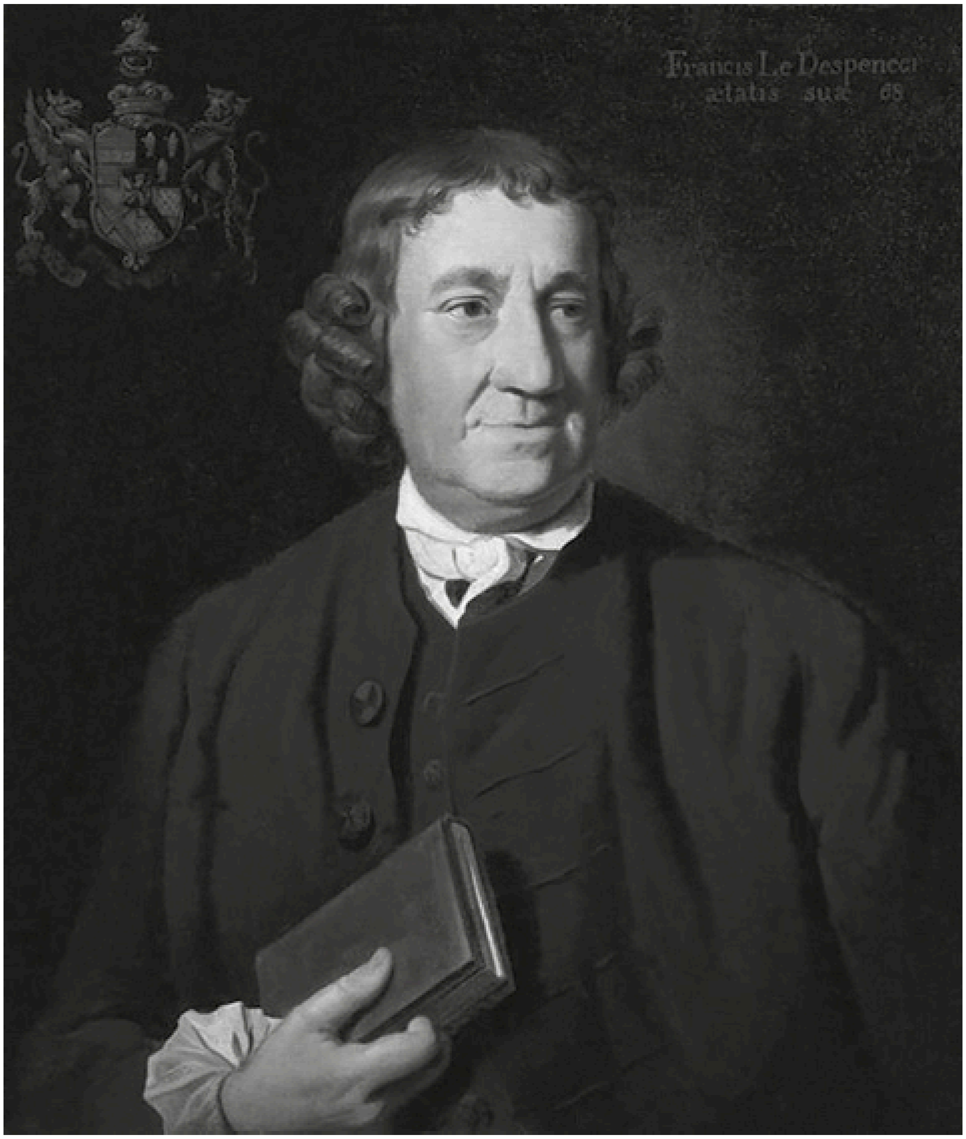
HELLFIRE CLUB

People have been spreading juicy rumors about the sensual indulgences and satanic perversities of the Hellfire Club since 1748.



Francis Dashwood, 11th Baron le Despencer, was the founder of the Hellfire Club in 1752 as a spoof of sequestered, serious societies of the day. Instead, the club was a kind of burlesque institution.

Of all the secret societies in the world, few arouse as many exotic fantasy images as the Hellfire Club. If one has heard anything at all of the wicked goings-on at the old Medmenham

Abbey on West Wycombe Hill, one immediately visualizes wealthy and aristocratic English libertines frolicking about with buxom ladies of ill repute and conducting blasphemous and obscene satanic rites.

The infamous Hellfire Club was founded by Sir Francis Dashwood, but neither he nor any of its members ever called their gatherings by that name. Sir Francis named his merry group of revelers the Friars of St. Francis of Wycombe, the Monks of Medmenham, or the Order of Knights of West Wycombe—none of which has quite the ring of the Hellfire Club, the name bequeathed to the group by outsiders.

Dashwood, son of a wealthy businessman, got his title by marrying into the aristocracy. Quite civically minded, for over twenty years Sir Francis sat in the House of Commons as an MP and held the offices of chancellor of the Exchequer, postmaster general, and treasurer to King George III. While this may seem like the résumé of a rigid and conservative gentleman, as a privileged young man Dashwood had gone on the Grand Tour of Europe, the rite of passage for sons of the idle rich. In Italy he came to admire the classical architecture and mythology of the country while simultaneously developing a strong distaste for Roman Catholicism. Surprisingly for one of the landed gentry, he joined the Jacobite revolutionary movement as well as the Rosicrucians.

While staying in Florence, Dashwood met Prince Charles, pretender to the Scottish throne, who had far-reaching associations with Masonic and neo-Templar secret societies. Quite probably under Prince Charles's sponsorship, Dashwood was initiated into a Masonic lodge.

In London around 1738, Dashwood founded the Society of the Dilettanti, essentially a private club for hard-drinking and womanizing aristocrats. In 1746 he established the Order of the Knights of St. Francis, whose members initially met at the George and Vulture public house in Cornhill, in a room dominated by a large crystal globe encircled by an Ouroboros, a gold serpent with its tail in its mouth.

In 1751 Dashwood leased Medmenham Abbey, originally a twelfth-century Cistercian monastery, on the Thames near Marlow, about six miles from his ancestral home at West Wycombe, as the headquarters for his order. He had stained-glass windows bearing the motto "Do as thou will" placed above the front door. His lifelong fascination with pagan gods and goddesses was architecturally expressed by designing the west wing of the mansion as a replica of a classical temple to Bacchus. To celebrate the temple's completion, Dashwood composed a pageant and employed actors to play fauns, satyrs, nymphs, and various gods and goddesses. As the Hellfire Friars dined, they were watched over by statues of the Freemasons' guardians of secrecy, Harpocrates, the Egyptian god of silence, with his finger to his lips, and Angerona, the Roman goddess of silence, indicating to the Friars that nothing that was said or went on in the Abbey was to be mentioned outside its walls.

Dashwood was delighted to discover a prehistoric network of caves under West Wycombe Hill, and he had them enlarged to serve as additional dens of iniquity. In ancient times a pagan altar had existed on the hill, and catacombs under the ground contained the pagan dead. Along with his instructions to excavate and enlarge the old caves, Dashwood ordered the construction of individual "cells" in the passageways for the Friars to dally with their female guests. An underground stream, dubbed "the River Styx," had to be crossed to enter the Inner Sanctum, where Black Masses were held. As a young man in France, Dashwood had attended a Black Mass, indulging his curiosity about the subject. There is no real evidence that Dashwood ever actually practiced Satanism, but he loved conducting pseudo-Satanic rites to mock the Catholic church.

Local gossip, which became legends passed down for generations, had the Hellfire Friars ferrying prostitutes down the Thames from London in barges to perform as nuns in the Black Mass. Other stories had it that the club's Black Masses were conducted over the naked bodies of aristocratic ladies and prostitutes. (Many scholars who have researched the Hellfire Club concluded that accounts of satanic Black Masses were likely exaggerated, with the club indulging in mock satanic rites more as prelude to paganistic indulgences).

It has been said that the members of the Hellfire Club included some of the wealthiest and most influential people in England. Long-suspected members include the Earl of Sandwich; John Wilkes, MP of Aylesbury; the satirical artist William Hogarth; John Stuart, Earl of Bute, who in his later years was briefly the prime minister of England; the Marquis of Granby; the Prince of Wales, and very possibly Benjamin Franklin and Horace Walpole.

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ADOLF HITLER

The infamous Nazi leader officially died in a Berlin bunker in 1945, but numerous conspiracy theorists are not so sure.

In the spring of 1945, the supposedly "Thousand-Year Reich" was coming to a premature end as the Soviet Red Army smashed its way through what was left of Germany's capital. The American 12th Army Group had redirected their efforts away from Berlin to an area south of Munich, where their intelligence indicated that the Nazi command was reconstituting itself in a "National Redoubt," with thousands of well-supplied, die-hard troops dug into mountain fortresses connected by underground tunnels.

Did Hitler really kill himself in 1945, or was it part of an elaborate plan for him to make his escape as Nazi Germany collapsed?

This turned out to be a lie, one of many myths of Nazi invincibility that swirled at the end of World War II and for decades after. In reality, on April 30, 1945, the Reich's leader, Adolf Hitler, and some of his inner circle were sequestered underneath Berlin in a bunker. Seeing that they would eventually be killed or captured, Hitler committed suicide, most likely by cyanide and then a bullet to the head. The head of the Soviet KGB (and later premier) Yuri Andropov ordered that the body be thrown in the river. The Soviets did keep part of Hitler's jaw and skull. Despite later claims that these remains were not consistent, an examination by French pathologists in 2017 proved a clear match for Hitler (in part based on comparing dental X-rays).

Nevertheless, almost from the moment that the war ended, a wide swath of people nurtured the belief that this story was merely a cover-up. Part of this was due to the Soviets' deliberately misleading the West about the circumstances of Hitler's death for complicated propagandistic reasons. (About a month later, Josef Stalin told American envoy Harry Hopkins that Hitler was still alive and in hiding somewhere, possibly fleeing to Japan in a submarine.) A strong cohort of fascists and Nazi sympathizers were also eager to believe in or at least promote a fantastical legend about their hero. But it is also likely that the worldwide death and destruction unleashed by Hitler left many needing a more conclusive end to his villainy. Without a body to point to, rumors about Hitler's escape and secretive second life spread through a traumatized world in the postwar years.

Many Hitler-survived conspiracy theories suggest that he escaped the fall of the Reich and absconded to Argentina. This idea had particular currency because of the country's large German immigrant population as well as the thousands of high-ranking Nazis who fled there, many ferried out of Europe via routes called "ratlines" established by fascist-sympathizing Argentine president Juan Peron. Once the public learned that Josef Mengele and Adolf Eichmann, both of whom were deeply implicated in the horrors of the Holocaust, had escaped to Argentina, it seemed highly possible that Hitler had done so as well.

Other theories about Hitler's survival posited that not only did he survive but either pulled hidden strings controlling world events or was quietly gathering forces for a vengeful return to power. One of the most colorful versions of the latter was the one based on the 1938 Nazi expedition to Antarctica. According to some conspiracists, that expedition built a network of secret bunkers, which were used after the war to house Hitler and cliques of other Nazis who since then have been developing secret weapons, including possibly UFOs.

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JIMMY HOFFA

Leader of the Teamsters Union during the 1960s, Jimmy Hoffa disappeared under mysterious circumstances in 1975.

Everyone knows that the larger-than-life Teamster boss disappeared in 1975. After that, opinions diverge.

At one time, Teamsters Union president Jimmy Hoffa was one of the most powerful men in America. The best-known labor leader of the postwar years, Hoffa was a tough negotiator and colorful personality who helped make the Teamsters the country’s largest union. Elected Teamster president in 1957, Hoffa was the subject of multiple federal investigations largely due to his associations with the mobsters who had long infiltrated the union. He went to prison in 1967 and was pardoned by President Richard Nixon in 1971. Four years later, he disappeared after a planned meeting with a couple of Mafiosi in a Detroit suburb. Hoffa’s remains were never recovered. He was officially declared dead in 1982.

Not surprisingly, most of the theories around Hoffa’s disappearance have centered on the Mafia due both to his close connections with them and tensions that appeared to have boiled up around his apparent attempts to regain control of the union. (Some people believed that the Mafia killed Hoffa to stop him from telling people about their influence over the Teamsters.) The question has been more about which mobster or hitman did the deed.

In 1989, freelance assassin Donald “Tony the Greek” Frankos told *Playboy* that Hoffa was killed by an Irish gangster and that the dismembered body was cemented under Giants

Stadium.

Charles Brandt's 2004 book *I Heard You Paint Houses* (later filmed by Martin Scorsese as *The Irishman*) tells the story of Frank Sheeran, a Mafia-connected killer who worked with and befriended Hoffa, only to ultimately murder him on orders from his boss and cremate the body at a funeral home.

In 2006, Richard "The Iceman" Kuklinski, who claimed to have killed upward of 100 people for profit and practice, said that he had done the deed on Hoffa, stabbing him with a hunting knife and putting the body in the trunk of a car that was then compacted.

Years before his disappearance, Hoffa may have also been involved in another conspiracy case. In 1992, his longtime lawyer Frank Ragano said that he relayed a message from Hoffa to Mafia bosses Santos Trafficante and Carlos Marcello in 1963 (at the time, all three men were being investigated by Robert Kennedy, whom Hoffa despised), telling them that President John F. Kennedy needed to be killed. The night of the assassination, Ragano had dinner with Trafficante, who told him, "Our problems are over. I hope Jimmy is happy now."

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HOLLOW EARTH

Perhaps UFOs are not from outer space but rather piloted by an ancient underground race who remain undecided whether to enslave or to assist the surface dwellers.

According to Ray Palmer, who was fiction editor of the Ziff-Davis stable of magazines from February 1938 to September 1949, he received a letter in September 1944 from Richard S. Shaver, who claimed to have discovered an ancient language that "should not be lost to the world." More or less on a whim, Palmer decided to print the letter, complete with sample of the alleged language, in the next issue of *Amazing Stories*.

The publication of the letter brought an avalanche of mail to Palmer's desk from readers who wanted to know more about Shaver and his mysterious language. Smelling a good story in the making, Palmer contacted Shaver and received a ten-thousand-word manuscript in reply. Impressed with the sincerity of the crude manuscript, which Shaver had ominously entitled "A Warning to Future Man," Palmer renamed the piece "I Remember Lemuria," added a few trimmings and polish, and published it in the March 1945 issue of *Amazing Stories*.

In the next few weeks, the magazine received fifty thousand letters from readers who had been intrigued, enthralled, or frightened by Shaver's "true" story. Palmer had no difficulty convincing the circulation director that they should increase their usual print run by fifty thousand for a follow-up Shaver piece. *Amazing Stories* maintained that print figure for the next four years while Palmer ran the series to its conclusion, thereby setting off what *Life* magazine called "the most celebrated rumpus that ever rocked the science-fiction world."

Shaver's stories claimed to be true accounts of human interaction with a race of malformed subhuman creatures called "dero" who inhabit a vast system of underground cities all over the world. The dero's ancestors were a race called the Abandondero, who were "abandoned" when the "Titans" or "Atlans" from Lemuria fled Earth in spaceships, fearing that extensive exposure to the sun's rays were limiting to their life span. Because the Abandondero denied themselves completely of the sun's radiation, vast numbers of the cave dwellers began physically and mentally deteriorating.

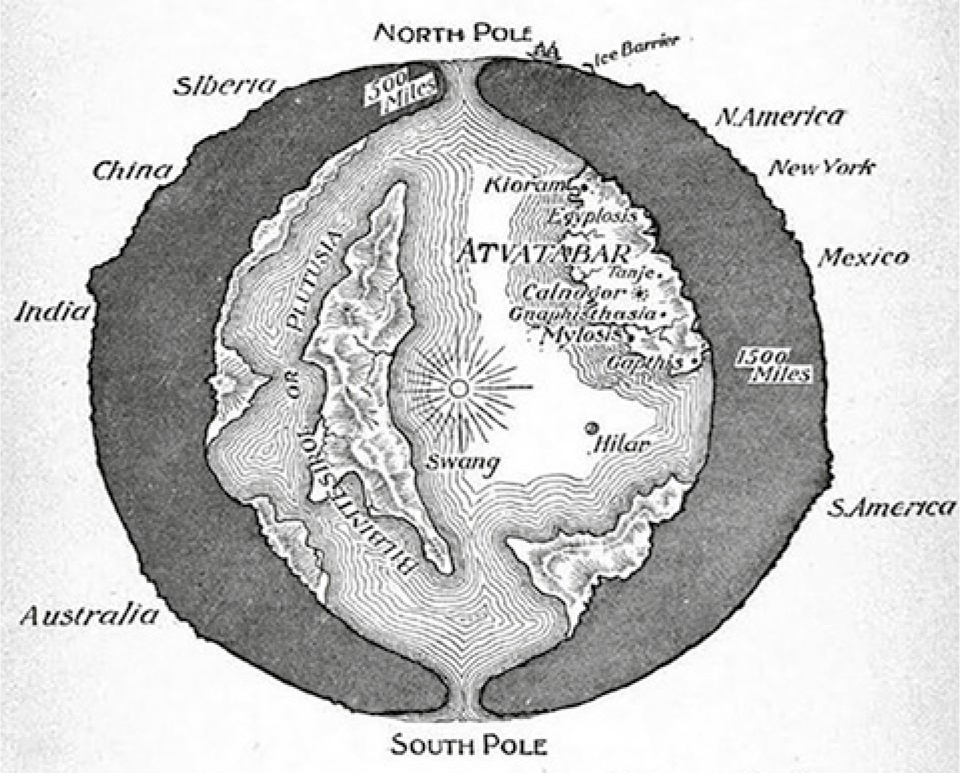
Standing between the viciousness of the degenerate dero and the surface civilization are the "tero." Shaver's "warning" to future humankind was that the dero are becoming more numerous and have scattered the benign tero with constant attacks. The greatest threat to the surface dwellers lies in the grim reality that the dero have access to all the machines of the Atlan technology—ranging from all-seeing "vision ray machines" to teleportation, death rays, and UFOs—but they lack the intelligence or the highly developed moral sense of the ancients to use these machines responsibly.

Only a small coterie of science-fiction buffs followed the Shaver Mystery. But at the same time, millions of individuals were spotting mysterious UFOs. Very quickly, certain researchers identified UFOs as originating from underground and suggested that the inhabitants of the inner earth might be descended from survivors of Atlantis. Some, like Palmer, argued that given the extreme distance of other solar systems, it simply made more sense for UFOs to come from Earth. Among the theories most often cited are the following:

- UFOs are piloted by an ancient humanoid race that antedates *Homo sapiens* by at least a million years. Their withdrawal from the surface world survives in the collective human unconscious as the legend of Atlantis.
- Atlantis was an actual prehistoric world that created a superscience and destroyed itself in civil war. The surviving Atlanteans sought refuge from radioactivity by retreating under the earth's crust. They have continued to monitor the new race of surface dwellers and accelerated their observation after the detonation of the first atomic bombs.
- Extraterrestrial beings established a colony on Earth about fifty thousand years ago when *Homo sapiens* was establishing itself as the dominant species. They gave primitive humankind a boost up the evolutionary ladder, then grew aghast at humanity's perpetual barbarism and left the surface world to establish underground and undersea bases from which to observe how their cosmic cousins would develop without direct interference and assistance.

Suppositions about the Hollow Earth did not begin with science-fiction writers and UFO theorists in the 1950s. The great seventeenth century British astronomer Edmund Halley is best known for having calculated the orbit of a comet that returns to the solar system every seventy-six years. But he later turned his attention away from the celestial in favor of the subterranean, claiming that the Earth was hollow and populated by humans and beasts.

Halley's Hollow Earth hypothesis was based on the fact that the earth's magnetic field varies over time. Halley suggested that there were several magnetic fields, one of which emanated from four concentric hollow spheres inside the earth. He believed the inner earth was populated with life and had a luminous atmosphere. The aurora borealis, he concluded, is actually an emanation of radiant gases that escape from within the earth through thin layers of crust at the poles.


NORTH POLE
Ice Barrier
Siberia
500 Miles
N.America
China
New York
Kioram
Egyplosis
ATVATABAR
Tanje
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Calnogor
Gnaphisthasia
Mylosis
Gapthis
India
PLUTUSIA
OR
BILMITSILOE
1500 Miles
Swang
Hilar
S.America
Australia
SOUTH POLE

Author William Bradshaw's 1892 science fiction novel, The Goddess of Atvatabar, imagined an interior world much like that described by Shaver.

Perhaps the most enthusiastic proponent of the Hollow Earth idea was John Cleves Symmes, born in 1780 in New Jersey. Symmes immersed himself in books on the natural sciences and by 1818 was publicizing his version of the Hollow Earth, which had concentric spheres and received light and warmth from the sun through large holes in the planet's surface at each of the poles.

Symmes impressed two influential men who took his cause further. James McBride, a wealthy Ohioan, wrote articles supporting the concentric-spheres version of the Hollow Earth. He lobbied a U.S. senator from Kentucky, Richard M. Johnson—later vice president of the McBride States under Martin Van Buren—to support a bill funding a proposed expedition to explore trade routes in the Southern Hemisphere (where McBride hoped the expedition would continue on to the open pole). In 1828 President John Quincy Adams indicated that he would approve funding for the expedition. However, when Adams left office in 1829, his successor, Andrew Jackson, stifled a bill funding the proposed expedition.

Symmes died in 1829, but his cause was continued by an Ohio newspaper editor Jeremiah Reynolds. After several years of Reynolds' dedicated efforts, an expedition set sail in 1838 searching for the land mass where Symmes envisioned a large hole in the Earth. When the expedition was completed in 1842, it had effectively mapped the world's seventh continent, Antarctica.

Edgar Allan Poe's longest work of fiction, "The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym" (1835), told of a land located in the center of our planet, entered by a hole at the South Pole. So convincingly did Poe weave his narrative that the great editor Horace Greeley soberly endorsed the Pym adventure as a true account.

In 1864 the novelist Jules Verne published *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, in which characters enter the earth's interior through the chimney of an inactive volcano in Iceland. The 1871 novel *The Coming Race* by occultist Edward Bulwer-Lytton was set in the earth's interior, where an advanced civilization of giants thrived.

In 1913, even after the North Pole had been reached, Marshall Gardner published *A Journey to the Earth's Interior; or, Have the Poles Really Been Discovered?* which claimed that many creatures thought to be extinct were still thriving within the earth. Gardner theorized that the interior was warmed by materials still spinning since the planet's creation. That same year, William Reed published *The Phantom of the Poles*, in which he promoted the idea that a ship can travel from the outer earth to the inner earth. He claimed that some sailors had already passed into the inner earth without knowing it. Gravity had pulled them to the interior side, where an inner sun six hundred miles in diameter continued to keep them warm, as the outer sun had done.

Edgar Rice Burroughs, more popular for his Tarzan and John Carter of Mars pulp novels, also published a series of Hollow Earth novels, starting with *At the Earth's Core* (1914). In his version, the underground world is populated by primitive humans enslaved by a race of flying reptiles.

One of the more interesting variations on the Hollow Earth theory during the late nineteenth century was expounded by Cyrus Read Teed, who claimed that a civilization inhabited the planet's concave inner surface. Teed made a religion of his theories and changed his name to Koresh, the Hebrew equivalent of his given name, Cyrus. As the messiah of Koreshanity, he formed a church, started a magazine (the *Flaming Cross*, which continued to be published regularly into the 1940s), and founded a community on a three-hundred-acre tract in Florida in 1894. He lived there with about 250 followers until 1908. Upon his death, his followers waited for him to rise again, as he had prophesied. After four days, health officials appeared on the scene and ordered his burial.

During World War II, Adolph Hitler sent an expedition to Antarctica to search for an entrance to the underworld. As a member of numerous occult societies, such as the Thule and the Vril, he believed that ancient masters had retreated to the inner earth and created a new Atlantis in subterranean caves. An important element in these occult societies was the belief that from time to time these supermen emerged from the underground kingdom to walk among humankind. In his racial supremacist frenzy, Hitler believed the people of the Third Reich would be chosen above all others to interact with the subterranean supermen in the mutation of a new species of heroes, demigods, and godmen.

During World War II, Adolph Hitler sent an expedition to Antarctica to search for an entrance to the underworld.

Hollow Earth enthusiasts continue to believe, some postulating that aliens, or possibly Vikings or the lost tribes of Israel, live in a paradisical garden beneath the surface warmed by a sun beaming from the Earth's core.

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HOLOCAUST REVISIONISM

Despite the wealth of eyewitness and documentary evidence about the Holocaust, some conspiracy theorists are dedicated to downplaying its horror or questioning whether it even happened.

On January 24, 2005, the United Nations General Assembly convened a special session to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps. Speakers memorialized the six million Jews who died in the camps and in what has become known as the "Holocaust." The session began a week of tributes worldwide to mark the liberation of the camps. On January 27 a special memorial service was conducted in Auschwitz, Poland, the scene of a death camp where at least a million prisoners—most of them Jews—died in gas chambers, from disease, or by starvation.

Speakers at the UN General Assembly in New York included Elie Wiesel, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986; Israeli foreign minister Silvan Shalom; and Russia's commissioner for human rights, Vladimir Lukin, all of whom warned against a global rise in anti-Semitism and the growing strength of movements that denied the Holocaust.

Sir Brian Urquhart, a retired UN undersecretary general who had been among the soldiers who freed prisoners held in the death camps in 1945, stated that the world must never forget the Holocaust and the terrible campaign of genocide. The special commemoration at the United Nations served, Urquhart said, "to recall what human beings driven by hatred or fear or some perverse ideology are, against all rational belief, still capable of doing to each other."

Nevertheless, at the same time, a cabal of conspiracy-minded historians continued trying to spread their message that one of the largest tragedies in human history either never happened or was not as horrific as the record shows. Many of them also attempt to propagate the conspiracy theory that the Holocaust has been cynically used to exploit sympathy for its victims.

While many of these theorists have been called "deniers," their approach is more often an insidious brand of revisionism through which they claim to find discrepancies in the historical record which can then be used to sew doubt about the entire catastrophe. This despite the volumes of recorded testimony, documentary footage, and meticulous record-keeping by the Nazi bureaucracy which showed the massive extent of the camps, guards, and railroads used to further the Third Reich's stated goal of "a complete solution to the Jewish question" (i.e., the planned murder of every Jewish person in Europe).

Holocaust revisionists include figures with white supremacist connections like politician David Duke and historians David Irving and Mark Weber; mainstream politicians like Republican presidential candidate and Richard Nixon speechwriter Patrick Buchanan; and groups such as the Palestinian Liberation Organization, Hezbollah, and the Nation of Islam. All share a determination to downplay the Holocaust through various ahistorical means, for instance claiming that the many pictures of victims were somehow faked or that there were actually no gas chambers.

Even though Holocaust revisionism would seem unlikely to be taken seriously by dint of its preposterousness, as historian Deborah Lipstadt points out, none of its basic ideas are any more absurd than the contents of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, which has fomented anti-Semitism around the world for well over a century.

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HOLY GRAIL

The goal of innumerable knights' quests, this legendary Christian relic is thought to have been hidden away for centuries by a secret society that wants to keep the grail's magical and transformative powers for themselves.

The Holy Grail is most often identified as the serving dish or the chalice used by Jesus during the Last Supper. According to one tradition, Joseph of Arimathea, the man who claimed Jesus' body after the crucifixion and provided the sepulcher in which he was placed, first came into possession of the Holy Grail. Imprisoned for several years for expressing his belief that Jesus was the Messiah, Joseph later traveled to Britain and took the grail with him. When he died, the sacred relic passed on to his descendants, who believed that it had magical qualities for the righteous. A few generations later, because of some transgression and a general lack of humility and virtue by keepers of the grail, the powers of the vessel were diminished, and its exact location became uncertain.

Finding the Holy Grail would not just be an important archeological find (if it does, in fact, exist), but for centuries people have believed the Cup of Christ possesses magical powers.

An alternate version of Joseph's involvement with the Holy Grail has him leaving Jerusalem soon after the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ and taking with him the grail, as well as Mary Magdalene and her children. Other accounts state that Mary, who was the wife of Jesus and the mother of his children, was *herself* the grail, the "vessel" by which the Davidic bloodline was brought out of Israel. These stories have Mary traveling to Scotland and secreting the Holy Grail on the site where Rosslyn Chapel would be built, just outside what is now Edinburgh.

The most popular Holy Grail stories have been about virtuous Christian knights questing for the lost chalice of Christ. The association with knights and the grail no doubt began with the legend that the Knights Templar discovered the holy vessel (complete with drops of Jesus' blood) in the rubble of Solomon's temple in Jerusalem sometime around 1118. Some accounts add that, in addition to this most remarkable holy relic, the knights found ancient documents proving that Jesus married Mary Magdalene. The Holy Grail and the proof of the marital union between Jesus and Mary were kept in Templar custody in Paris until the arrest of Jacques de Molay, the grand master of the Temple, by King Philip of France in 1307. Fugitive Templars spirited the holy treasures to safe haven in Scotland sometime around 1312, and the Holy Grail eventually was hidden in Rosslyn Chapel.

The familiar tales about King Arthur and his knights and their quests for the Holy Grail began to be popular in France, Germany, and England in the second half of the twelfth century. The accounts usually begin with a knight's receiving a revelation about the sacredness and power of the lost grail, then embarking on a quest for the esteemed relic. Characters in grail stories are often archetypes, representing certain human traits as deployed by the author to present Christian teachings. The knight's success or failure in quest of the grail serves as a reflection on what is considered good and bad behavior.

Between 1160 and 1180 the French poet Chrétien de Troyes wrote five major works about Arthur and his knights based on history and legend. Around 1200 the German poet Wolfram von Eschenbach wrote a grail legend, *Parzival*, about a youth who sets out to become a knight in Arthur's court. Along the way the title character stops at the castle of the Fisher King, where Parzival witnesses a procession bearing a glowing object (the grail) and a spear (the one that wounded Christ). In the presence of the grail, the Fisher King is struck dumb. Because Parzival has a pure soul, he could have spoken in the presence of the grail and used its magical powers to heal the infirm Fisher King. Only much later, after many wanderings, does Parzival learn about the true nature of the grail. He returns to the castle of the Fisher King, who is revealed to be his uncle, heals him, and restores the king's land, which had become barren when he became infirm.

In *Le Morte d'Arthur*, a collection of Arthurian tales by the fifteenth-century English writer Sir Thomas Malory, the grail becomes the object of a quest among the knights of the Round Table at King Arthur's castle, Camelot. The quest is eventually accomplished by Sir Galahad, who, as an emblem of Christian virtue, alone achieves the grail.

Arthurian legends and the grail may be based to some extent on Celtic lore. The Holy Grail might well have been developed from references to magic cauldrons that appear in many Celtic myths and practices. In her book From Ritual to Romance (1920), Jessie Weston traces some similarities between Celtic myths and grail legends. Some Celtic fertility rituals, for example, were designed to ensure the health and vigor of a community leader: the physical welfare of the land was connected with that of the king. The silence and sterility of the Fisher King in *Parzeval* would indicate some transgression or physical failure on his part that affected his land. Celtic legends have references to the Fisher King as the leader of a barren land, referred to as the Waste Land and "the land laid waste."

Dan Brown's novel *The Da Vinci Code* (2003) renewed interest in the old traditions of the Templars, the Holy Grail, and Rosslyn Chapel. American academic, David Conley, who claims to be a descendant of Knights Templar founder Hugues de Payens, has said he believes the Templars were entrusted with the Holy Grail, the Ark of the Covenant, and a number of ancient scrolls and that the sacred objects are hidden in an underground tunnel system beneath the chapel that mirrors the design of Solomon's temple in Jerusalem.

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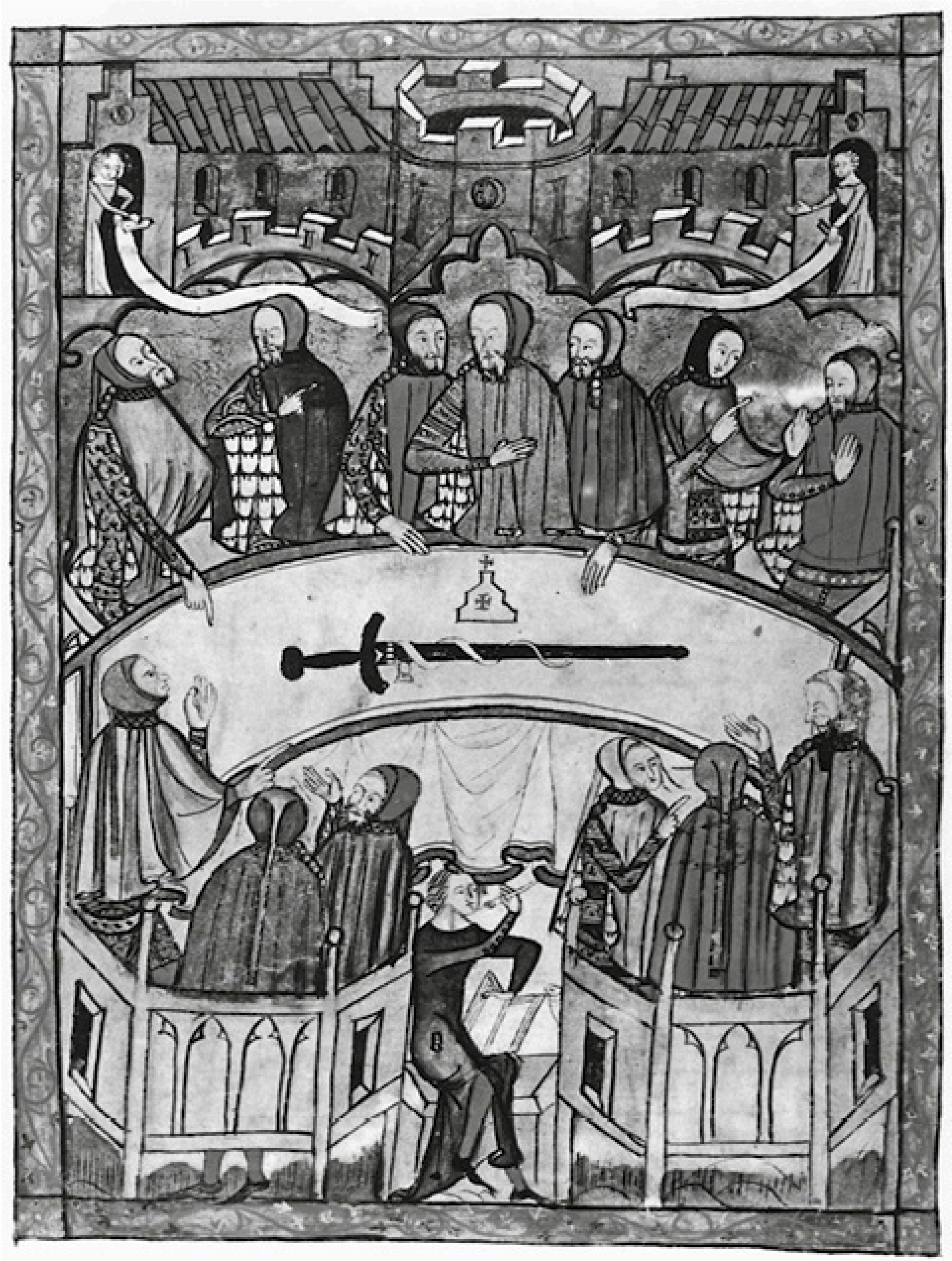
HOLY VEHM

The Holy Vehm, a secret society dedicated to the murder of Christian heretics, surfaced as an ally of the Nazis in Germany in the 1930s.

When the Nazis came to power in Germany during the 1930s, the secret society known as the Chivalrous Order of the Holy Vehm came into the open for the first time in its seven-hundred-year history, focusing its bigotry and violence upon the Jewish people, judging them to be guilty of heresy.

The Holy Vehm (or Fehm) had been formed in the middle of the thirteenth century as a secret vigilante society composed of free men and commoners to protect themselves from marauding outlaw bands and mercenaries roaming the lawless territory between the Rhine and the Weser Rivers in Westphalia, Germany. In the beginning the resistance group had the approval of both the church and the Holy Roman Emperor. But as time passed the Holy Vehm became a law unto itself, passing judgment on all those whom it decided should receive a death sentence.



A c. 1375 illuminated page showing a Vehmic court in session. A secret society that set itself up as judge and jury of heretics, the Vehm eventually lost the backing of the Catholic Church.

An oath of secrecy was imposed upon all who joined the Vehm. During the initiation ceremonies, candidates vowed to kill themselves, and even their spouses and children, rather than permit any society secrets to be betrayed. Once the oath had been made, one of the Vehm's *Stuhlherren*, or judges, who held the highest rank within the society, would move his sword across the initiates' throats, drawing a few drops of blood to serve as a silent reminder of the fate that awaited all traitors. Below the judges in rank were the deputy judges (*Freischoffen*) and the executioners (*Frohnboten*).

Within a few decades of its formation the Vehm had over 200,000 men in its ranks—each sworn to uphold the Ten Commandments and to eliminate all heresies, heretics, perjurers, traitors, and servants of Satan. The harsh and punitive secret courts (*Heimliches Gericht*) always met at midnight in order to create an even more sinister and frightening effect. Those suspected of witchcraft or heresy were tried by the "forbidden court" (*Verbotene Acht*) and the "secret tribunal" (*Heimliches Acht*), both of which were conducted by the Black Vehm, a splinter group of the Holy Vehm. Because of the great power that the Vehm acquired, it conducted trials of noted outlaws and thieves in village squares or marketplaces in the full light of midday.

When the outlaws and thieves had been largely driven from Westphalia, the Vehm turned its full attention to those men and women suspected of heresies or of betraying the commandments of God. Before suspects came to court, they were served with three summonses, each of which gave them the opportunity of attending voluntarily. Each summons also gave the accused a period of consent of six weeks and three days. Because the tribunals of the Vehm had gained a reputation of pronouncing only death sentences, few people attended the courts of their own volition. Those who tried to escape were condemned without the usual pretense of a trial, and Vehm executioners were assigned to hunt them down.

Regardless of the charges levied against those the Vehm accused, the sentence was always death by hanging. If any spoke in behalf of their accused friends, they were likely to be hanged as well, for giving false witness to defend a heretic or a traitor. On those rare occasions when the tribunal failed to convince even its own members of an accused individual's guilt, that unfortunate person was hanged anyway to preserve the secrecy of the tribunal. There appears to be no record of any of the secret courts ever finding anyone innocent. But then the Vehm never kept any records. In spite of the lack of documentation, historians have estimated that thousands of men and women—the innocent along with the guilty—were dragged into the night to one of the Vehm's secret courts.

Although eventually condemned by the church and German state, the secret society remained active in a diminished capacity. Toward the end of the nineteenth century, it went underground and seemingly ceased all acts of violence until the advent of the Nazi Party in the 1930s. The Holy Vehm appears to have been destroyed with its Nazi allies in the fall of the Third Reich in 1945.

Hughes offered President Lyndon B. Johnson and President Nixon each a million dollars to call a halt to nuclear testing in Nevada.

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HOWARD HUGHES

The eccentric billionaire aviator, manufacturer, and Hollywood playboy had a fantasy life in which he saw himself as a secret agent.

If a novelist invented a character like Howard Hughes, readers would think that the author had pushed the envelope of believability and crossed into pure fantasy. Harold Robbins's bestselling novel *The Carpetbaggers* (1961) and Martin Scorsese's movie *The Aviator* (2004) were both ridiculously eventful stories based on Hughes' life that did not have to invent much. Hughes was a cowboy, an aviator, a manufacturer, a Hollywood playboy who made love to some of the most beautiful movie stars of the era, a producer who made movies with some of the most beautiful actresses of the era, a patriotic military contractor, and a maverick financier. He also had his own airline and owned multiple casinos. What more could he ask of life? one might ask.

Because all that was apparently not enough, the billionaire also had a stirring fantasy life in which he sometimes envisioned himself as a spy.

To fulfill one aspect of his secret life, Hughes became a very substantial backer of the CIA —so substantial that he was known to the insiders as the "Stockholder." The ultraconservative Hughes also liked to dabble in politics, and during the 1960 presidential campaign he decided that Richard Nixon was his candidate, largely for the way he went after Communists. Hughes liked Nixon so much that he loaned Nixon's brother Donald $205,000 to help get his Nixon Burger restaurants in the black. John F. Kennedy's crew learned of the loan and made presidential hay out of the secret money exchange.

Hughes offered President Lyndon B. Johnson and President Nixon each a million dollars to call a halt to nuclear testing in Nevada. By the mid-1960s Hughes had already started becoming a hermit and believed that poisonous fallout from the tests would drift in the windows of his Las Vegas penthouse.

It may never be decided for certain, but a number of senators and other investigators for the Senate Watergate Committee believe that Hughes played a major, if shadowy, role in the notorious scandal. The matter was not pushed as far as it might have been, for a number of senators would have been embarrassed if the public learned how much money Hughes had given to their campaigns.

In the late 1950s Hughes hired his very own spook, Robert Maheu, an ex-FBI agent who had owned a private security firm that worked for the CIA on ultrasensitive and slightly illegal secret projects. The very versatile Maheu had served as everything from the Agency's pimp for foreign dignitaries to mastermind of a failed attempt to assassinate Fidel Castro. Maheu was also tight with the mob bosses John Roselli, Sam Giancana, and Santos Trafficante, associations that helped smooth Hughes's settling into Las Vegas. Hughes, the adventurer, the daring aviator, the financier, lived vicariously the life of a CIA operative through the exploits that Maheu recounted for his enjoyment. Maheu also intimidated blackmailers who tried to squeeze his boss with gossipy tidbits about his many love affairs and, at the same time, kept tabs on dozens of Hollywood starlets toward whom Hughes felt jealous and possessive—whether he knew them or not. (However, according to the popular *Gemstone File* conspiracy document circulated in the 1970s, Hughes had actually been kidnapped by international drug kingpin and power broker Aristotle Onassis, who then covertly took over Hughes' empire, replacing the billionaire with a double.)

By 1970 Hughes was becoming increasingly reclusive due large to his extreme germaphobia. Rare photographs taken at this time were in sharp contrast to the handsome tuxedo-attired playboy of the Hollywood years. Greasy, shoulder-length hair framed Hughes' face and his eyes seemed fogged with drugs; his bare feet with long, carpet-snagging toenails could no longer be squeezed into his cowboy boots; his snaggled, decaying teeth would no longer invite a starlet's kiss. His tall, once hardy figure was now withered and emaciated. The only women surrounding him now were his Mormon nursemaids. People wondered how someone who had such a fear of germs could appear as though he never washed.

It was in such a condition that Hughes somehow managed to travel to the Bahamas and meet face to face with Nicaraguan dictator Generalissimo Anastasio Somoza and a U.S. ambassador. Later, much to the concern of his custodian Bill Gay, Hughes demanded once again to pilot a plane, just as he had done in his glory days.

Hughes's last fling with fame occurred when Gay authorized the *Glomar Explorer*, Hughes's massive deep sea drilling ship, to assist the CIA in a covert action to retrieve a sunken Soviet submarine that contained top-secret code books. When news of the expedition leaked and hit the media in 1975, Hughes was once again the legendary larger than life hero.

It was doubtful that Hughes realized that he was once again in all the tabloids. On April 5, 1976, Hughes's cadaver was flown from Acapulco to Houston. The fingerprints of the ninety-pound shell of the once vibrant six-foot-three cowboy had to be sent to the FBI for verification that the body was that of Howard Hughes.

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HURRICANE KATRINA

The wrath of Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans on August 29, 2005, resulting in an unprecedented cataclysmic natural disaster for the United States. But how "natural" was it?

There are many nominations for the true sinister forces behind Katrina. It wasn't as if scientists and environmentalists hadn't been warning city, state, and federal governments for years about the disaster of biblical proportions waiting to happen in New Orleans. Government gadflies had named New Orleans as one of the most vulnerable areas in the Bush administration's continued neglect of the nation's deteriorating roads, bridges, tunnels, and levees. Even the much-beleaguered Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had listed a hurricane strike on New Orleans as one of the direst threats to the United States.

Robert Caputo and Tyrone Turner proved prescient in their October 2004 *National Geographic* piece "Gone with the Water" when they described a "broiling August afternoon in New Orleans" when a "whirling maelstrom approached the coast" and "more than a million people evacuated to higher ground. Some 200,000 remained, however—the car-less, the homeless, the aged and infirm, and those die-hard New Orleanians who look for any excuse to throw a party." The article stated that with nearly 80 percent of New Orleans lying below sea level, the water would pour in and quickly reach a depth of twenty-five feet over parts of the city. Caputo and Turner foresaw as many as fifty thousand dead, a million left homeless, and thousands more who survived the flooding only to perish later from disease. The authors stated that a category 5 hurricane striking New Orleans would be "the worst natural disaster in the history of the United States."

Although Katrina's huge surge and pounding waves in New Orleans and to its east did cause the "worst natural disaster" in our nation's history in terms of property damage, fortunately the death total did not reach the numbers predicted by Caputo and Turner. The enormous outpouring of assistance, the aid of the Red Cross and civilian and religious relief organizations, plus the efforts of government health agencies, warded off a high mortality rate from disease. However, in spite of the indomitable spirit of its residents, the city needed many years to recover from the destruction.

The winds from Katrina had scarcely ceased blowing when a wide range of theorists began fomenting and formulating a long list of conspiracies responsible for the terrible destruction that visited New Orleans.

One of the most widespread rumors was based in historical truth. Following the hurricane, talk ricocheted around the city that somebody (Army Corps of Engineers were the usual culprits, though the Ku Klux Klan were also fingered by some) had dynamited the levees to relieve pressure elsewhere, causing the devastating flooding of the largely black Lower Ninth Ward. Although that accusation was never proven, many who believed it were likely thinking of the Great Flood of 1927, when the Army Corps of Engineers blew the levee at Caernarvon in St. Bernard Parish to save New Orleans from destruction.

SPEED LIMIT

Devastation in New Orleans from Hurricane Katrina was extensive. Theories about why it destroyed so many lives and homes abound, ranging from weather control to deliberate levee destruction to flood specific communities.

Some other accusations rampaging across the internet and talk radio programs were the following:

- Weather weapons developed by black-ops agencies in cooperation with New World Order scientists sent the hurricane to New Orleans, a major U.S. port, in order to begin the move to martial law throughout the nation. Future targets will include New York and San Francisco.
- George W. Bush, the CIA, and the Miami Cuban mafia conspired to create a man-made disaster with the goal of eliminating a sizable number of New Orleans's black population in order to strengthen the GOP's voter base.
- God created Katrina to punish the gay population of the city. Several Christian fundamentalists described the hurricane's destructiveness as retribution for flouting the Creator's distaste for gays and for such irreligious decadence as the Mardi Gras celebrations.
- The Yakuza, the Japanese "mafia," used a Russian-made electromagnetic generator to launch the first of a series of devastating storms against cities on the U.S. mainland.
- A cabal of New Orleans real estate agents hired demolitions experts to plant explosives in the levees in order to flood the city's poorest neighborhoods and drive up property values in upscale sections of New Orleans.
- Zionist agents blew the levees as revenge for the U.S. endorsement of the Gaza evacuations of Jewish settlers.
- A test by the Pentagon's secret weapons program of meteorological manipulation backfired when the electromagnetically controlled storm moved from Cuba, where it had been directed, and traveled to Florida and Louisiana.

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SADDAM HUSSEIN AND THE AL-QAEDA CONNECTION

Was 9/11 the New World Order's "Reichstag fire" and Saddam Hussein their scapegoat?

Conspiracy theorists assert that the horrors of 9/11 brought the terrible handiwork of the New World Order out of the shadows and into the living room of every American home. To their thinking, 9/11 was a Reichstag fire event that the NOW used to justify declaring a war on terrorism and a siege against the accused architects of the sneak attack, Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein. (On the night of February 27, 1933, the Nazis set fire to the Reichstag, the building where the German Parliament met, and falsely blamed it on Communist agitators to support a crackdown.)

After 9/11 several top administration officials declared almost immediately that there was undeniable evidence that Hussein and bin Laden had planned the attacks as a cooperative effort. "There's no question that Saddam Hussein had al Qaeda ties," President Bush pronounced grimly to the nation. "There's overwhelming evidence of an Iraq–al Qaeda connection," Vice President Dick Cheney said, adding that he was "very confident there was an established relationship there."

In late 2001, in order to back up the administration's claims of Iraqi involvement in the September 11 attacks, Cheney said it was "pretty well confirmed" that the mastermind of the attacks, Mohamed Atta, had met with a senior Iraqi intelligence official in April 2000 in Prague to plan the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. In addition to stressing the links between Iraq and al-Qaeda and the September 11 attacks, Cheney connected Iraq to the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, stating that "newly found Iraqi intelligence files revealed that a participant in the 1993 bombing had fled to Iraq where he received financing from the Iraqi government and a safe haven."

It became an oft-cited administration "fact" that the Iraqi government or the Iraqi intelligence service had an effective working relationship with al-Qaeda that went back to the early 1990s. After the immediate shock of 9/11 had passed and the terrible attacks could be assessed by cogent analysis, this accusation looked shaky at best. Yet the president and vice president continued to insist on such a connection. By the time the U.S. launched its invasion of Iraq in March 2003, enough Americans had been convinced by overly credulous news reports and cynically manipulated intelligence that the Hussein-bin Laden lie was true that the administration could say the country supported the war.

Bush, in his "Mission Accomplished" speech aboard an aircraft carrier on May 1, 2003, seemed desperate to assure America that the war that he claimed the country had just won had been fought for a good reason: "The liberation of Iraq is a crucial advance in the campaign against terror. We've removed an ally of al Qaeda and cut off a source of terrorist funding."

A statue of Saddam Hussein is toppled in Baghdad after the U.S. military defeated the regime. No connection between Hussein and Al-Qaeda was ever firmly proven.

No part of that statement was true.

The conspiracy theorists turned out to be correct in their belief that there was absolutely no connection between Hussein and al-Qaeda. While Iraq and al-Qaeda had a mutual hatred of America, they also despised each other as rival contenders for control of the Arab world. On June 16, 2004, the September 11 Commission reported that it found no "collaborative relationship" between Iraq and al-Qaeda, thereby challenging one of the Bush administration's main justifications for the war in Iraq. The commission's staff also reported that:

- When bin Laden was in Sudan (1991–96), he met with a senior Iraqi intelligence officer. Bin Laden was in the process of setting up training camps and seeking assistance in getting weapons and inquired if the Hussein regime, though secular, would join the jihad against the West. The report concluded that Iraq had never responded to these requests. Perhaps by way of retaliation, bin Laden sponsored anti-Saddam Islamists in Iraqi Kurdistan.
- As for the Atta meeting in Prague mentioned by Cheney, the commission's staff concluded on the basis of FBI and Czech intelligence that such a meeting never occurred.
- On the matter of the 1993 Trade Center bombing, there was "substantial uncertainty" that bin Laden and al Qaeda were involved.

Conspiracy researchers remain convinced that certain individuals in the FBI and CIA were involved in a cover-up of monstrous proportions to justify the Iraq War, which lasted from 2003 to 2011, cost over 4,500 Americans their lives, in addition to hundreds of thousands of Iraqis. Multiple U.S. presidential administrations partnered with Hussein in past, while it is believed that the Bush family had been in the oil business with the bin Laden family since at least 1976. Neither should it be overlooked that even during some of Hussein's worst atrocities (the gas attacks in his unprovoked war with Iran), he was supported by the U.S.

Many have good reason to argue that Hussein was dictator but also a pawn, serving Western interests as a distraction for the overall plan to protect the West's oil supply.

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HYPNOSIS, FALSE MEMORIES, AND THE NEW WORLD ORDER

Who can you believe if you can't even trust your own memories?

While many conspiracy theorists believe that the invading alien-allied New World Order has benefitted for years from advanced extraterrestrial technology and mind-control sciences, other investigators of UFO phenomena steadfastly believe that a U.S. government agency or agents from a secret group like the Illuminati have been conspiring since the late 1940s to make us *believe* that we are being invaded by extraterrestrials.

The theory goes that one way for a group bent on world domination to convince people to give up freedoms in exchange for so-called protection would be for them to use mind-control programs to make the American public believe it is being invaded by an alien civilization. In this conspiracy scenario, UFO abductees are not being snatched and examined by aliens, but by very human government mind-control agents who use hypnosis and drugs to convince the abductees that they have been examined, probed, left with tiny scars—and in some instances, even impregnated—by extraterrestrials. In other cases of alleged UFO abductions, witnesses may stumble unaware upon members of shadow agencies engaged in operations that they want to keep secret from the public. Those witnesses are captured, hypnotized or drugged, then released with a cover story implanted in their memories that they were abducted by aliens.

In hypnosis, as the subject relaxes and concentrates on the hypnotist's voice, the hypnotist leads the person deeper and deeper into a trancelike state of altered consciousness. When the subject has reached a deep level of hypnotic trance, the hypnotist will have access to the individual's unconscious. Clinical psychologists believe that hypnotherapy permits them to help their clients uncover hidden or repressed memories of fears or abuse that will facilitate their cure. But an increasing number of amateur hypnotists have employed hypnosis to explore cases suggestive of past lives or accounts of alien abductions aboard UFOs. These lay or unprofessional hypnotists serve the New World Order very well by adding to the number of men and women who believe that they were abducted by aliens. Skeptical scientists doubt that hypnosis is a true altered state of consciousness and contend that the individuals who are classified as good subjects by both professional or lay hypnotists are really men and women who are highly suggestible and prone to fantasies.

Certain studies on memory show that people often construct their memories after the fact and that they may be susceptible to suggestions from others as to the "truth" of what actually occurred. Therefore, it is possible to create false memories in some people's minds by suggesting that certain events happened when, in fact, such circumstances never occurred.

In March 1998 a report commissioned by the Royal College of Psychiatrists in England accused its own members of having destroyed innocent lives by implanting false memories while using irresponsible techniques of delving into patients' childhood events. According to the report, nearly a thousand parents stated that they had been falsely accused of sexual abuse after their adult children allegedly recovered memories of the attacks during psychotherapy.

Certain studies on memory show that people often construct their memories after the fact and that they may be susceptible to suggestions from others as to the "truth" of what actually occurred.

In the November 1998 issue of the journal *Psychological Science*, Dr. C. J. Brainerd and Dr. V. F. Reyna of the University of Arizona in Tucson published their findings that many individuals often believed more strongly in suggested false memories than in actual recollections of events. When strong themes are operative in such explorations of memory, the researchers state, things that were not really experienced can seem more real to the individual than his or her actual experiences.

The ease with which a false memory can be created was demonstrated by a 2001 experiment conducted by University of Washington memory researchers Jacqueline E. Pickrell and Elizabeth F. Loftus. After the 120 subjects were exposed to a fake advertisement showing Bugs Bunny at Disneyland, about a third of them later said that they had met the cartoon character when they visited Disneyland earlier in their lives and had even shaken his hand. Such a scenario could never have occurred, because Bugs Bunny is a cartoon character owned by Warner Brothers and would not be seen walking around Disneyland with Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck.

Pickrell explained that the study suggested not only how easily a false memory can be created but just how vulnerable and malleable memory is overall. The experiment also demonstrated how people may create many of their autobiographical references and memories. Even the nostalgic advertising employed by many commercial companies can lead many individuals to remember experiences that they never really had. Loftus suggested that false memories are often created by three common methods: yielding to social or professional demands to recall particular events; imagining events when experiencing difficulty remembering; and being encouraged to abandon critical thinking regarding the truth of memory constructions. False memories, according to Loftus and her research colleagues, are most often constructed "by combining actual memories with the content of suggestions received from others." During such a process, individuals may experience source confusion and forget how much of the memory is valid and how much came from external sources.

And when that "external source" is a skilled New World Order manipulator of reality, the conspiracy theorists maintain, invalid memories of alien abductions might be easily implanted into deceiving the entire world into a state of apathy concerning warnings of a sinister elite who wish to make everyone their slaves.

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DAVID ICKE–THE REPTILIAN CONSPIRACY

Hailed by some as the "paranoid of the decade," David Icke warns that reptilian, shape-shifting aliens are amongst us—as our presidents, our royalty, our diplomats, even our entertainers.

David Icke says that the history of the world has been nothing but a conspiracy against the human race, a campaign conducted for thousands of years by the Anunnaki, a secret society of extraterrestrial reptilians. The reptilian race spun the myths that formed the world's religions and cleverly designed the teachings of various prophets to keep humans in a mental prison. The Anunnaki have controlled gullible humans and ruled them as pharaohs, kings, emperors, and assorted royalty. The devious reptiles are behind such secret societies and powerful groups as the Illuminati, the Bilderbergers, the Trilateral Commission, and the Freemasons.

For those who concede an innate fear of snakes but can't recall seeing any reptiles walking around as preachers, teachers, or public administrators, Icke maintains that is because the Anunnaki are shapeshifters and can take on human form. Icke declares that such notables as Henry Kissinger, Mikhail Gorbachev, George W. Bush, Queen Elizabeth, Bill and Hillary Clinton, Bob Hope, and even Kris Kristofferson are all intergalactic reptiles disguised as humans.

Icke, a native of Leicester, England, was not always chasing blood-drinking lizards from other worlds. Until he developed arthritis in 1973, he was a professional soccer player for the Coventry City and Hereford United teams. Icke then became a sports announcer for the BBC and started engaging in politics, becoming national spokesperson for the British Green Party from 1988 to 1991.

New Age concepts and ideas began to appeal to him, and for a time Icke dressed in turquoise and called himself the "Son of Godhead." Concerned about the health of the planet, he became an environmentalist, but then read the Tsarist anti-Semitic forgery *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* and began proclaiming that there was a global Jewish conspiracy. Icke's anti-Semitic theories blamed Jews for a lengthy roster of evils that included precipitating World War I, the Russian Revolution, and World War II, even claiming that an elite clique of Jews had provided the financial clout that enabled Hitler to rise to power and rearm Nazi Germany.

Starting with the paranoia that there is a secret society of the elite (the Illuminati) that controls the world, Icke went further and dressed them in reptilian clothing. Icke once commented that when he was a lad, he wondered how the British Isles, just tiny specks on a world globe, could have built an empire on which the sun never set. The answer came clear to him when he claimed to have traced the bloodlines of English monarchy back to the Roman Empire, Egypt, Babylon, and ultimately back to the "sons of God" (the extraterrestrial reptilian race) who interbred with the Hebrew "daughters of men" to create the hybrid line, the Nephilim.

A former sports broadcaster, David Icke made a name for himself as a conspiracy theorist who claims he receives messages from the spirit world.

In 1998 Icke pieced together the final sections of the reptilian bloodline. In his book *The Biggest Secret*, he tells of meeting two supposed victims of mind control who claimed to have been forced to conduct satanic human sacrifices for high-level dignitaries, including the British royal family. According to one, after Queen Elizabeth ate human flesh, she would shape-shift into a reptilian "with a long reptile face, almost like a beak, and she's an off-white color." Among the other major world figures whom Icke has identified as being part of a lizard-human hybrid he calls the "Babylonian Brotherhood" are numerous U.S. presidents and even Mick Jagger. Despite the outré reptilian elements, his theories follow a common progression from New World Order fears to an ever-evolving belief that secret elites are leveraging everything from 9/11 to climate change and COVID-19 to control humanity.

Despite being frequently denounced for his anti-Semitic views (for that reason, he was banned from multiple social media networks in 2020), Icke's ideas have continued to spread through lectures, videos, and (mostly self-published) books like *The Robots' Rebellion* (1994) and *The Biggest Secret: The Book that Will Change the World* (1999). He appears to have influenced a range of people from *The Color Purple* author and anti-Semitic conspiracist Alice Walker to Anthony Quinn Warner, the latter of whom set off a massive bomb in Nashville, Tennessee on Christmas Day 2020 due in part to his Icke-inspired beliefs in a lizard people takeover.

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ILLUMINATI

Numerous conspiracy theories orbit the Illuminati, an 18th-century secret society now believed by many to be a cabal capable of controlling the entire world. Not only are members of the Illuminati the world's real rulers, they have been pulling the strings from behind the scenes for centuries and infiltrated every government and every aspect of society around the planet. Some say that their ultimate goal is to install a satanic New World Order, a one-world government, that will prepare Earth's citizens for the coming of the antichrist. Others believe they have not existed for centuries.

Historically, this is what we know about the Illuminati:

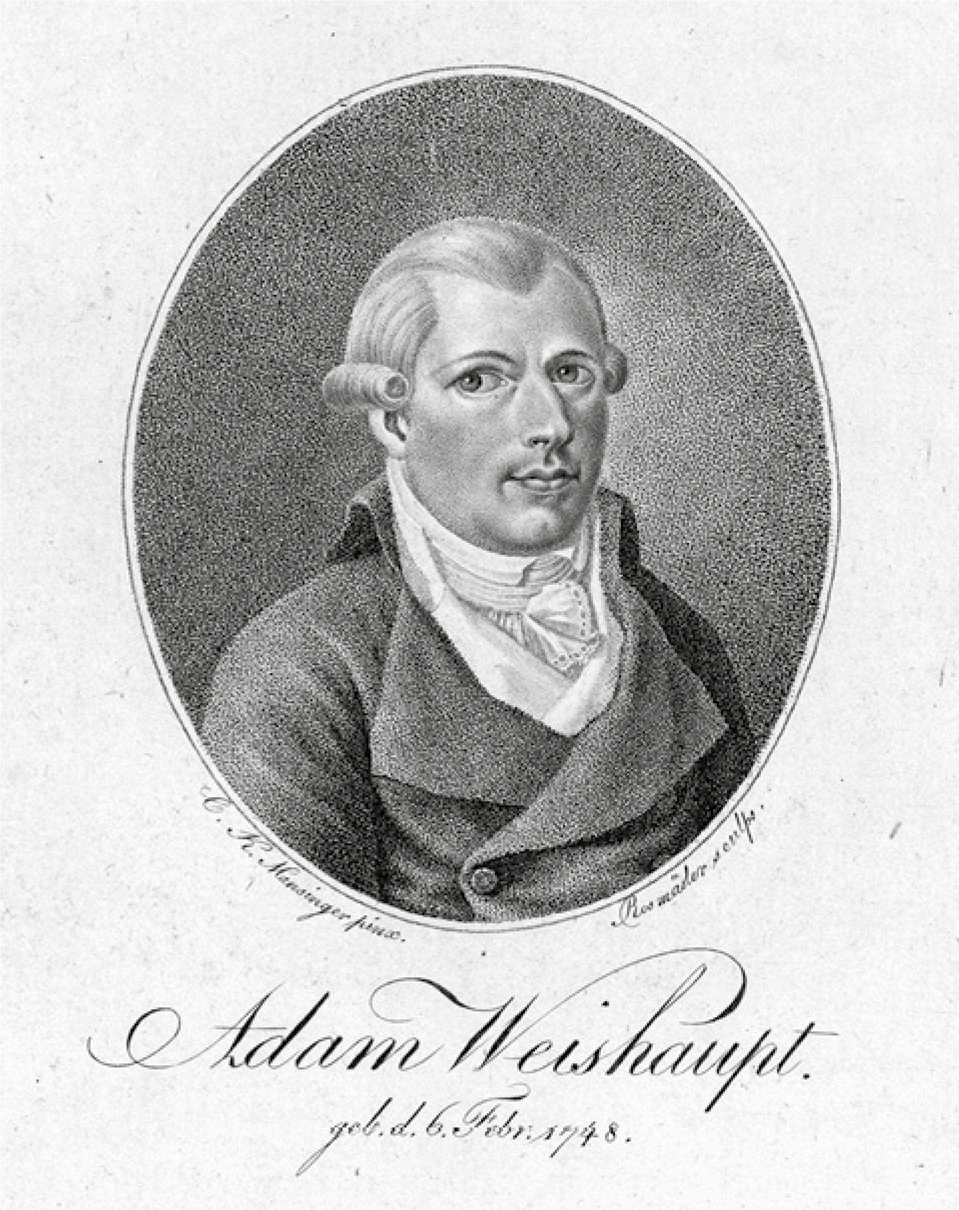
- The term was first used by Spanish occultists toward the end of the fifteenth century to signify those alchemists and magicians who appeared to possess the "light" of spiritual illumination from a higher source. Later, a mystical sixteenth-century Spanish sect, the Alumbrados, adopted the name Illuminati.

- The secret society known as the Order of the Illuminati was founded in the city of Ingolstadt in the southern German monarchy of Bavaria on May 1, 1776, by Adam Weishaupt. A twenty-eight-year-old professor of religious law, Weishaupt deliberately blended mysticism into the workings of the brotherhood to give an air of mystery to his more workaday agenda of republicanism and political reform. Beginning with only five members, Weishaupt's order grew slowly, numbering about sixty in five cities by 1780. He adopted many of the classes and orders of the Masons, and he promised his initiates that they would receive a special communication of occult knowledge as they advanced higher in the ranks of the Illuminati.
- Weishaupt's society had little effect on the German political structure until 1780. That year, they attracted the interest of Adolf Francis, Baron von Knigge, a master occultist who had risen to the highest levels in many of the secret societies that preceded the Illuminati, including the Masons. Knigge had no problem melding his interest in the supernatural with Weishaupt's goal of political revolution. The two men quickly established branches of the Illuminati throughout all of Germany. A few months after Knigge had joined Weishaupt's cause, membership in the Illuminati swelled to three hundred.
- Weishaupt emphasized enlisting as many young men of wealth and position as possible. He also created an aura of mystery, permitting himself to only be seen by those in the Illuminati's highest ranks, encouraging the myth that he was an adept so powerful that he existed largely as an invisible presence. Initiates into the Illuminati underwent secret rites, wore bizarre costumes, and participated in grotesque ceremonies designed to instill complete obedience to Weishaupt. Soon the organization became a force to be reckoned with behind the scenes in Germany's political life, and its members worked secretly to overthrow both church and state.
- As the group's influence grew, Weishaupt and Knigge became concerned that some German princes would take steps to suppress it. To make the Illuminati an even more secret society, the leaders implemented Weishaupt's original plan of grafting the group onto the larger brotherhood of the Freemasons. The Masons soon realized interlopers had joined their fraternal brotherhood. Though the Masons formed a council in 1782 to investigate the Illuminati, they were outmaneuvered by Knigge, who ultimately enrolled most council members in the Illuminati. By 1784 Illuminati membership had risen to three thousand, and the secret society appeared on the verge of assuming control of the entire Masonic establishment.
- Just when their goals seemed within their grasp, Weishaupt and Knigge fell into a serious disagreement about the correct manner of proceeding with their master plan. In April 1784 Knigge withdrew from the Illuminati, leaving Weishaupt the supreme commander of the increasingly powerful society. A few months later, a number of high-level initiates became disillusioned when Weishaupt's long-promised supernatural communication had not manifested. It became obvious to them that Weishaupt had only sought to use them to achieve his political ambitions. The Illuminati was denounced as a subversive organization by many of its former members, some of whom informed the duchess dowager Maria Anna of Bavaria and the ruling duke of Bavaria, Karl Theodor, that the society sought the end of both religious and royal authority.
- In March 1785 Karl Theodor issued an edict condemning the Illuminati. Weishaupt had already fled to a neighboring province, where he hoped to inspire the loyal members of

> the Illuminati to continue as a society. Weishaupt faded into obscurity. Although he never realized his goal of a German republic and the overthrow of the European monarchies, the sparks he ignited with the Illuminati would soon burst into the flames of the French Revolution in 1789.

There we have it. The Illuminati, with its plan for a new world order, was destroyed within fifteen years of its origin. Of course, that’s not quite the final word according to conspiracy theorists.

According to those who fan Illuminati theorizing, after the society was banished from Bavaria, it survived in the form of the German Union and several “reading societies” devoted to literature and self-improvement. It was believed that Weishaupt’s recruitment of wealthy young men and given the Illuminati the access and means to circulate printed materials showing the deceptions of organized religion and the social abuses of government. The Illuminati were charged with doing this in order to promulgate their goal of destroying the aristocracy and appearing to bring the people to power while in actuality controlling the common folk from behind the scenes. Given how soon the French Revolution came after the society’s dissolution, and its self-promoted air of secrecy, many reactionaries across Europe saw their hand in the unprecedented uprising.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Rosmäsler sculps.
Adam Weishaupt.
geb. d. 6. Febr. 1748.

A philosopher and law professor, Adam Weishaupt founded the Illuminati in Bavaria in 1776.

In 1797 John Robison's book *Proofs of a Conspiracy against All of the Religions and Governments of Europe, Carried On in the Secret Meetings of Freemasons, Illuminati, and Reading Societies* sought to expose the secrets of the Illuminati. In 1799 Abbé Augustin Barruel published *Memoirs Illustrating the History of Jacobinism*, a four-volume study that attempted to prove the French Revolution was brought about by a anti-Christian coalition of French philosophers, Masons, and Illuminati.

Some conspiracy theorists maintain that the Illuminati crossed the Atlantic to infiltrate the ranks of the American founding fathers. Their great proof of this are the similarities between the Illuminati symbol—a pyramid with an eye in the capstone and the Great Seal of the United States as shown on the back of the American one-dollar bill. (Also, underneath the Great Seal pyramid is the Latin phrase *Novus Ordo Seclorum*, which means "New Order of the Ages"—not exactly "New World Order," but certainly close enough for believers). Even though the eye-in-pyramid design had a lengthy history in Christian art Robison and Barruel's theories spread widely in post-Revolution America and caused a brief panic about nefarious European influence.

Some theorists who have generated a more unified theory of the Illuminati have proposed that Karl Marx and Frederick Engels were students of Weishaupt and Illuminism and adapted the goals of the Illuminati when they composed *The Communist Manifesto* in 1848. This line of thinking proved particularly popular among anti-Communists during the Cold War. At the same time, the American counterculture was also drawn to beliefs about groups like the Illuminati controlling the world; the popular *The Illuminatus! Trilogy* novels (1975) and their spinoff board and card games both celebrated and lampooned such theorizing.

In more recent years, New World Order theorists and anti-Semites drew complex linkages between Marxism, the Illuminati, and political and banking elites. According to these believers, the Illuminati have been following one plan since the 1780s: Encourage world wars so people will feel a need for an organization like the United Nations to keep the peace. Once such an organization is created, continue the pressure of war so that, in time, a world body of government with a world court and a world police force will keep the masses of all nations in check and absolute power will be in the hands of the Illuminati.

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THE INTERNET AND THE NEW WORLD ORDER

As with a firearm, the internet's use for good or evil depends upon the individual—and whoever is controlling either.

Since the advent of the World Wide Web made the internet (invented years earlier by the military and for a long time used primarily by researchers) a mass phenomenon in the 1990s, among its most eager users have been researchers looking into evidence that things are not as they truly seem. It provides a convenient portal to voluminous amounts of text, imagery, and video that in the pre-online era was far more time-consuming and sometimes impossible for researchers to gather. The internet is also a low-entry way for activists who previously would have been limited to spreading printed materials at often high costs and inconvenience but could now disseminate their thoughts and research around the world at the click of a mouse.

But if conspiracy theorists believe anything, it is that anything as attractive and world-spanning as the internet must have not just hidden costs but one or more puppet masters responsible for the whole endeavor.

For years now, conspiracy theorists have warned that the internet has the potential to be a powerful tool by which the secret government or agents of the New World Order can better enslave the general population.

For years now, conspiracy theorists have warned that the internet has the potential to be a powerful tool by which the secret government or agents of the New World Order can better enslave the general population. They believe that even though people wanting to dissent have found an inexpensive medium by which to express their criticism of the government, Big Brother groups within the government have gained the most wonderful surveillance tool they could imagine.

Hacktivists and privacy advocates continually develop new ways to keep governments and private companies from spying on citizens, including privacy-ensuring software like Tor, which ironically was originally created by the U.S. government in the 1990s for its spies to use. But they are fighting a technological arms race with very well-funded adversaries who find it increasingly simple to monitor what people read, write, and search for.

At the same time, even though for most of its short history, the internet has been mostly uncensored, that flow of information is increasingly being monitored, narrowed, or blocked completely. Authoritarian regimes from Russia to China, Iran, North Korea, and Syria are putting up vast "firewalls" to ensure that their citizens see only what the government wants them to. At the same time, countries like China keep a close eye on who is doing or saying what on the internet's ever-more-addictive social media networks to shut down dissent before it materializes in the physical world. In this way, the powers that be can use the internet, once championed as a tool for freedom, to help their people spy on themselves.

The latter point is the great irony in this area. The same Web-based platforms and tools (from early message boards to current social media and video sites) which are allowing governments and corporations to track people's interests and movements with increasing accuracy are at the same time allowing conspiracists to broadcast their messages with ever-greater speed and reach.

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IRAN-CONTRA AFFAIR

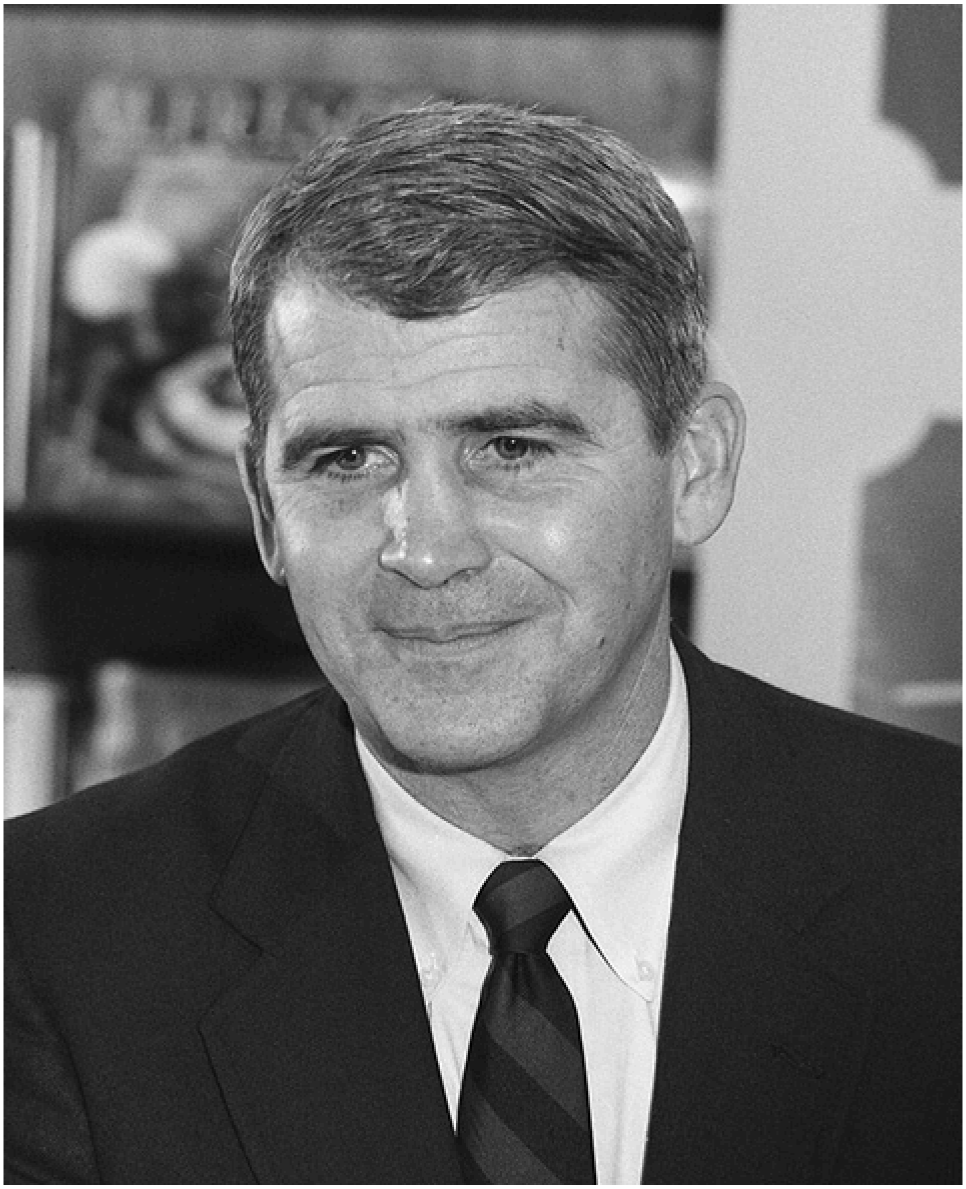
Blocked by Congress from funding the Contra rebels and wanting to free American hostages in Lebanon, the Reagan administration engaged in a conspiracy to

circumvent the law.

As part of U.S. president Ronald Reagan’s campaign to engage in more muscular pushback against the Soviet Union, starting in 1981, he approved the CIA funding of anti-Communist rebels known as the “Contras” fighting the Soviet-backed Sandinista government in Nicaragua. Given their deplorable human-rights record and minimal battlefield success, the Contras had their support cut off by Congress in 1984. Officially, at least.

But Reagan’s administration was dead set on backing the Contras, believing they could help stop a possible Soviet incursion in the Western Hemisphere, so the National Security Council (NSC) launched an elaborate worldwide conspiracy to get around their own government. It started in 1985 with an attempt to secure the release of American hostages held by Iranian-backed terrorists in Lebanon by secretly selling $48 million of weapons to Iran. This flew in the face of the supposed American policy to never negotiate with terrorists and the administration’s own stated effort to stop other countries from selling arms to Iran. But sell the weapons the NSC did. Then, part of that $48 million from Iran was diverted by NSC staffer Lt. Col. Oliver North to help the Contras, which it appeared that the CIA and various private Republican donors had never stopped assisting.

The conspiracy unraveled in 1986, when the Sandinistas shot down a plane ferrying supplies to the Contras and the American pilot admitted what was going on. Not long after, a Lebanese magazine exposed the Iran deal by reporting on a meeting that North had had in Tehran. This was followed by North and his secretary, Fawn Hall, shredding documents that he worried would embarrass the administration. Reagan went on television in March 1987 to both admit and deny what happened: “A few months ago I told the American people I did not trade arms for hostages. My heart and my best intentions still tell me that‘s true, but the facts and the evidence tell me it is not.” Congress launched a years-long investigation, which eventually resulted in 11 convictions.



Formerly a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps, Oliver North (shown here in 1991) was a key figure in the Iran–Contra Affair that became a huge scandal during the Reagan Administration.

The Iran–Contra conspiracy was perhaps not as dramatic as some theories connected to the Reagan administration—particularly the belief that under their leadership, the CIA introduced crack cocaine to America. But it was played out right in the open, with numerous televised hearings that showed even skeptics that occasionally, conspiracies do happen.

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JANUARY 6 INSURRECTION

Soon after the assault on the Capitol on this date in 2021 by pro-Trump marchers, the belief began to spread that it had, in fact, been an inside job.

On January 6, 2021, the House of Representatives gathered to certify the results of the presidential election, which showed that Joe Biden had beaten Donald Trump by several million votes. Insisting that the Democrats had engaged in widespread fraud, Trump held a rally where he railed against what he called a "stolen" election. As Congress met in a joint session to confirm the vote count from each state, pro-Trump protestors gathered outside. Not long after Trump's speech ended, a mob of protestors swarmed the Capitol, engaging in vicious, hand-to-hand fighting with the Capitol police. Breaking into the building, the protestors poured through the corridors, some reportedly shouting to "hang" Trump's vice president, Mike Pence, who had ultimately certified the election.

In the aftermath of the unsuccessful assault, which left several people dead, two narratives formed. The first, embraced by the mainstream media, took the rioters at face value, determining that their Trump flags and fury against Democrats meant they were there to overturn the election, leading some to label the riot an attempted insurrection. This theory was given heft by the discovery that the assault on the Capitol appeared to have been part of a well-orchestrated effort planned by the administration and its allies to overturn the election results.

The second narrative, which took hold almost right away among conspiracy-friendly right-wing media figures, coalesced around a belief that the rioters had, in fact, been primarily peaceful and that whatever violence occurred that day was due to the presence of agent provocateurs. Many followers of that theory claimed that the pro-Trump marchers had really been upbeat, calm, and not at all violent, while the organized units of more aggressive rioters were not antigovernment militia groups like the Oath Keepers, Three Percenters, and Proud Boys, who were, in fact, antifa activists looking to create a spectacle that would look bad for Trump and his supporters. Others believed that the FBI was following the same template it had used with COINTELPRO to splinter antiwar groups by infiltrating undercover agents and informants into the pro-Trump protestors. The curiously lax law-enforcement stance that day appeared suspect, with the Capitol police quickly overwhelmed and only reinforced hours later. The Oregon Republican Party announced that the "false flag" operation was a Democratic plot to grab "total power, in a frightening parallel to the February 1933 burning of the German Reichstag." A November documentary by Fox News host Tucker Carlson called *Patriot Purge* went even further, charging that Democrats were waging a "domestic war on terror" against conservatives who the government saw not as citizens but as enemy "insurgents."

The January 6, 2001, attempted insurrection by Donald Trump supporters is considered the worst attack on U.S. democracy since the Civil War.

Given their many similarities to left-wing beliefs about government infiltration of their movements starting in the 1960s, conservatives' false flag charges around January 6 are another example of how conspiracy theories can come full circle.

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JACK THE RIPPER

According to some researchers, the always morbidly fascinating Jack the Ripper was a member of the British royal family.

Although even the number of murders attributable to the infamous Jack the Ripper is debated—the count runs as high as fifteen—there is a general consensus that the series of slayings began in the White Chapel district of London's East End with the murder of Mary Ann Nichols on the night of August 31, 1888, and ended nine weeks later with the gruesome slaughter of Mary Jeanette Kelly.

Mary Ann Nichols was found lying across a gutter, repeatedly slashed by someone with a long-handled knife and a general knowledge of anatomy. A week later Annie Chapman was found in a backyard, her head nearly severed. A few nights later the Ripper was interrupted in his attack on a local celebrity known as Long Liz by a man who drove a pony cart into the yard. The pony shied at the fleeing figure of Jack, and the driver jumped down from his seat to lift the woman's head. Blood poured from the open wound in her throat, and it was evident that she was beyond help. Apparently, the intrusion so annoyed the Ripper that within an hour he lured Catherine Eddows into a lonely alley where he could indulge his perverse and deadly passions at his leisure. Jack extracted her left kidney and certain other organs, then wiped his hands and knife on her apron.

The London newspapers ran countless stories speculating about the Ripper's identity. Perhaps he was a demonic butcher, a Polish Jew, an American sailor, a Russian doctor, or one of a host of other suspects—anyone, it seemed, so long as he was not English. Jack, who was obviously following his press quite carefully and enjoying every inch of ink in the papers, countered with a famous poem he sent to the *Times* which include the salutation, "Yours truly —Jack the Ripper."

The Ripper corresponded with Scotland Yard as well as the London press. To a persistent police officer, whose investigation was evidently well known to the Ripper, he sent part of a human kidney. "I have fried and eaten the other part," he stated in an accompanying note.

Jeanette Kelly was the only victim killed indoors. She had been heard singing "Sweet Violets" during the evening and had seemed to be in high spirits. Her horribly mutilated corpse was discovered the next morning by a passerby who could look directly into her ground-level apartment. Sir Melville Macnaghten, a Scotland Yard official, reported that the Ripper must have spent at least two hours over his hellish work: "A fire was burning low in the room, but neither stove nor gas were there. The madman made a bonfire of some old newspapers and of his victim's clothes, and by this dim irreligious light, a scene was enacted which nothing witnessed by Dante, in his visit to the infernal regions, could have surpassed."

The only possible description we have of Jack the Ripper came from someone who saw Jeanette Kelly in the company of a man "about thirty-five years old, five-feet six inches tall, of a dark complexion, with a dark mustache turned up at the ends."

Abruptly the murders ceased, but theories about the now morbidly romanticized Ripper continued to afford challenges for amateur detectives at the local pubs and painstaking police work for tough-minded Scotland Yard inspectors. Someone with a knowledge of surgery always ranked first in the theoretical list of suspects. The second favorite was a midwife who had both familiarity with her victims and a knowledge of elementary surgery. A journalist reported the death of a diabolical doctor in Buenos Aires who allegedly made a deathbed confession that he had been Jack the Ripper, but his claim was impossible to document.

The notorious Dr. Neill Cream, convicted of poisoning four women, shouted, "I am Jack the—" just as the executioner pulled the lever on the hangman's platform and dropped the doctor to the end of his rope. Eager devotees of the Dr. Cream solution to the Ripper legend were disappointed when their investigation revealed that Cream had been in Joliet prison in Illinois throughout the period of the East End murders.

The best-selling crime writer Patricia Cornwell spent a great deal of money attempting to prove her theory that Jack the Ripper was the painter Walter Sickert, an artist whose unsettling paintings generally featured Irish music-hall entertainers and scantily clad women of the night. Alistair Smith, director of the University of Manchester's Whitworth Art Gallery, pronounces Cornwell's theory as presented in her *Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper—Case Closed* (2002) utter nonsense and points out that the art historian Matthew Sturgis discredited Cornwell's research in his own critically acclaimed Sickert biography.

Other recent theories about Jack's identity have even included HRH Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence, the grandson of Queen Victoria. "Prince Eddy," as he was known, was the son of Prince Albert Edward (later King Edward VII) and Princess Alexandra. Prince Albert, "Bertie," was a bit of a rogue, involved in a number of scandals that had to be hushed up by the palace. On the other hand, Alexandra was much like Princess Diana, respected for her public works and much loved by the people. Rumors that Eddy was dull, even retarded, began when he was a child. The boy was also partially deaf.

Prince Eddy was named Duke of Clarence in 1891 and would likely have been king of England if he had not died in the influenza epidemic of 1891–92. At the time of his death, he was engaged to Princess Mary of Teck, who did become Queen Mary.

Although people gossiped about Eddy's bizarre lifestyle, there were no rumors linking him to the awful murders committed by Jack the Ripper during his lifetime. It was not until 1962 that Philippe Julien, author of *Edouard VII*, published the allegation that Eddy and the Duke of Bedford had been responsible for the Ripper slayings.

Jack the Ripper targeted prostitutes in areas such as Whitechapel in East London. This picture shows one of the lodging houses where two victims met their bloody end.

In 1970 Dr. Thomas Stowell created a sensation when he published an article in the *Criminologist* claiming that Eddy, driven mad by syphilis, committed the murders. In this theory, the royal family was fully aware that Eddy was the Ripper but did nothing until after the double murders of Long Liz and Catherine Eddows on the same night. Eddy was then bundled off to a private mental hospital, but he escaped and committed the gruesome murder of Jeanette Kelly. (Eddy's terrible skill with a knife, so Stowell's theory goes, came from his experiences at dressing deer on the hunt.) Once again, the royal family had Eddy quietly confined in a mental hospital, where he resided until he died of syphilis attacking his brain.

Stowell's conspiracy theory about Prince Jack the Ripper reads convincingly and terrifyingly. To refute such claims, royal records were released that show Prince Eddy was not even in London on the important murder dates.

The forensic psychiatrist David Abrahamsen profiled Jack the Ripper and concluded that Prince Eddy was an accomplice in the murders. Other Ripper theories touching on the royal family have involved Queen Victoria, a secret wife of Eddy's, and elaborate Freemason rituals. Like many other conspiracies that develop a life of their own, that of Prince Eddy the Ripper will no doubt continue to add many branches to the main trunk.

Alan Moore and Eddie Campbell's deeply researched and heavily detailed graphic novel *From Hell* (1999) compiles many of the Ripper conspiracy theories into its lurid and horrific storyline, also suggesting that Freemasonry and the occult were involved with the murderous cover-ups committed by the Queen's lackeys.

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JACOBINISM

It has been suggested that far from being the patriotic fomenters of the French Revolution, the Jacobins were pawns of the Illuminati.

In the context of the French Revolution (1789–95), a Jacobin was a member of the Jacobin Club, a patriotic group originally formed in Breton and reconstituted as the Society of Friends of the Constitution after the revolutionary National Assembly moved to Paris in 1789. The designation "Jacobin" for the Society of Friends came from their choice of meeting place, the monastery of the Jacobins, the Parisian name for the Dominican order.

In the beginning the Jacobins were generally moderate bourgeois who sought to limit the powers of the monarchy. As they inspired patriotic societies in most French cities, they became more radical, advocating republican ideals, separation of church and state, public education, and universal suffrage. In 1794 the Jacobins, under their leader Robespierre, instituted the Reign of Terror against counterrevolutionaries as well as former allies, such as the Cordeliers and the followers of Georges Danton. The execution of Robespierre on July 28, 1794, signaled the demise of the Jacobins' power, however many times their spirit may have been invoked in later years. The label "Jacobin" is applied today to anyone with extreme liberal tendencies or who promotes radical or revolutionary opinions.

In volume 3 of his *Memoirs Illustrating the History of Jacobinism*, Abbé Augustin Barruel accuses the Jacobins of being aligned with the Illuminati in fomenting the collapse of the monarchy in France. According to Barruel, the leaders of the Illuminist French Grand Orient oversaw the Jacobin clubs and were responsible for orchestrating all the major events of the French Revolution. The revolution, therefore, was not an exercise in democracy, but an illustration of the Illuminati's success in subversive destruction of a nation.

Since the Counter-Reformation, beginning when Pope Pius IV sat on the Vatican throne of the papacy in 1560 extending to the close of the Thirty

Years' War in 1648, the Jesuits have been the villains in countless conspiracy theories.

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JESUITS: THE VATICAN'S ASSASSINS

Ever since the Counter-Reformation, Saint Ignatius's admonition to his Jesuit order to put on the "armor of God" has been interpreted as a license to kill for the Vatican.

A story is told that Saint Ignatius was seated at the side of a road, looking at the stream that crossed it, absorbed in contemplation when the eyes of his soul were opened and inundated with light. He was able to distinguish nothing with his five senses, but he comprehended marvelously a great number of truths pertaining to the faith or to the human sciences. The new concepts and ideas were so numerous and the light so bright that Ignatius seemed to enter into a new world. The amount of this new knowledge was so great that, according to Ignatius, all that he had learned in his life up to his sixty-second year, whether supernatural or through laborious study, could not compare with what he learned in this one ecstatic experience. In his *Spiritual Exercises*, Ignatius strove to capture, in a series of reflections, examinations of conscience, and prayers, the steps to a mystical union with God.

It has been said that Saint Ignatius of Loyola was dominated all his life by a desire to imitate Christ. In 1540 he received papal approval for a new order, the Jesuits, soldiers of Christ, headquartered in Rome. Although the Jesuits became a major force for the Catholic Church in the Counter-Reformation, Ignatius was more interested in educating young people and establishing new mission fields than in punishing Protestants. He opened many schools during his lifetime and saw Catholic missions begun in Japan, India, and Brazil.

Ignatius was canonized a saint in 1622, and his order remains strong today. *Too* strong, according to some conspiracy theorists.

Since the Counter-Reformation, beginning when Pope Pius IV sat on the Vatican throne of the papacy in 1560 extending to the close of the Thirty Years' War in 1648, the Jesuits have been the villains in countless conspiracy theories. The following list touches on only a few of the most notable:

- The great overriding goal of the Jesuit conspiracy is to set up a One World Government by controlling the Roman Catholic hierarchy, the pope, and the governing bodies of all the nations in the world.
- Some of the first Jesuits were *conversos* (Spanish Jews who had converted to Catholicism, very often out of fear of the Inquisition), meaning that today's Jesuits are secretly Jews.

- Sixteenth-century French Jesuits claimed they believed drinking chocolate did not count as breaking their fast. In fact, that was because they poisoned the chocolate they received from missions in America to use against their enemies.
- The University of Ingolstadt employed as a professor Adam Weishaupt, who went on to found the Order of the Illuminati. The school was founded by Jesuits, who also educated Weishaupt.
- Jesuits authored the infamous anti-Semitic text, *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*, to stir up hatred of the Jews. The Jesuits had been expelled from Germany in 1872 and from France in 1880. They believed the Jews to be responsible for their loss of power in those European nations, so they began to implement a program of anti-Semitism as a means of revenge.
- Jesuits engineered the Dreyfus affair in France in 1894 in an attempt to ignite a war between France and Germany. Alfred Dreyfus, a French army officer, was falsely accused of handing secrets over to the German government, but he was set up by the Jesuits, found guilty, and sent to Devil's Island for ten years. The controversy over the case split French society in two.
- Jesuits sabotaged and oversaw the sinking of the *Titanic* in 1912 in order to remove a number of wealthy Jews from power. Among those on board the "unsinkable" vessel were Benjamin Guggenheim, of M. Guggenheim and Sons and Isidor Strauss, one of the founders of Macy's.
- Jesuits assigned one of their number, Bernhardt Staempfle, to tutor Adolf Hitler and to guide the future Führer in the writing of *Mein Kampf*.
- The Jesuit order served as the inspiration for Hitler and Himmler in their structuring of the SS.
- Jesuits cooperated fully with the Nazis in handing over Jews. Especially with the Vichy government in France in 1942, the Jesuits helped round up the Jews for shipment to Auschwitz.
- Jesuits control the Federal Reserve Bank and use its wealth to accomplish secret missions for the Vatican.
- Jesuits established Zionist Israel through their control of the Masonic Jewish Zionists.
- Jesuits secretly funnel money to anti-Semitic right-wing militia groups, as well as to the Ku Klux Klan and the Black Muslims.
- Jesuits within the CIA, FBI, Secret Service, and Mafia assassinated America's first Roman Catholic president, John F. Kennedy, because he defied the pope, the Universal Monarch of the World.
- Jesuits established the network that destroyed the Twin Towers of New York's World Trade Center and attacked the Pentagon in order to provide justification for the crusade against Muslims.

Some conspiracy theories about Jesuits were given new life after the 2013 election of Pope Francis, the first priest of the order to sit in the Papal throne.

With the election of the first Jesuit, Pope Francis, to the Church's leadership, old conspiracy theories about the Jesuits reemerged.

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JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Although they once had some influence on the American scene, the John Birch Society couldn't refrain from labeling anyone who disagreed with them a Communist or a member of the New World Order—even U.S. presidents.

The John Birch Society (JBS) was founded in 1958 in Indianapolis by Robert Welch Jr., a retired candy manufacturer from Belmont, Massachusetts, who believed in restoring to contemporary America the values and principles first stated in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. The society was named after John Birch, a World War II intelligence officer and Baptist missionary who was killed in 1945 in China by members of the Communist Party. *The Blue Book of the John Birch Society*, the "bible" of the JBS, was a virtual transcript of Welch's two-day presentation at the meeting that gave birth to the society, its goal and its motto: "Less government, more responsibility, and with God's help, a better world." Though some Birchers followed the conspiracy theory that the Illuminati was a Jewish plot to foist Communism on the world, officially the group disavowed openly anti-Semitic beliefs.

Welch advocated fighting Communism by employing one of the Communists' favorite tactics: infiltrating other groups. He asked members to join everything from the PTA to local political groups, spread the word of conservatism and anti-Communism in those groups, and work earnestly to take control of them. Another JBS strategy that Welch recommended was to organize massive letter-writing campaigns to sway the attitudes of politicians and advertisers. Welch also warned that the real nature of the United Nations was to begin building a New World Order, a One World Government, and he urged all JBS members to hound their elected representatives to abolish U.S. membership in the organization.

In addition to the Communist threat, Welch also believed that the Illuminati still existed and thought them to be a Jewish-organized plot to undermine governments and consolidate power.

By 1961 the JBS claimed to have hundreds of chapters across the United States with over 100,000 members. Their warning that the Illuminati and the New World Order secret societies formed an unbroken link from the French Revolution to the rise of Marxism was nothing new or original, though still found many adherents. They caused a stir and gained notoriety with claims that top government officials were dedicated Communist agents, though the fervency of that belief began to wear out their welcome among doctrinaire Republicans—especially when they accused President Dwight D. Eisenhower of being an agent of the Communist conspiracy. Among others named as Communist conspirators were former presidents Harry S. Truman and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Writer William F. Buckley Jr., a onetime friend and ally of Welch whose magazine the *National Review* was the bible of establishment conservatism, termed such accusations "paranoid and idiotic."

Nevertheless, JBS beliefs and conspiratorial fears continued to percolate in Republican circles. General Edwin Walker gave out Birch material to his soldiers in an anti-Communist indoctrination program he called "Pro-Blue" and was forced to resign in 1961. Two years later, Walker was nearly killed in an assassination attempt by Lee Harvey Oswald, supposedly for his extreme Bircher views.

JBS influence on American politics peaked in 1964 during the Republican presidential campaign of Republican Barry Goldwater, an anti-establishment figure whose fierce anti-Communism and fiery language sounded like paranoia to some. John Birch members and friends published several widely distributed books that simultaneously promoted conspiracy theories and support for Goldwater. *None Dare Call It Treason*, by John A. Stormer, warned about decay in the public schools and the advance of Communism throughout the world; it sold over 7 million copies. *A Choice, Not an Echo*, by Phyllis Schlafly, worried about the Republican Party's being controlled by elitists and Bilderbergers. *The Gravediggers*, coauthored by Schlafly and retired rear admiral Chester Ward, claimed that U.S. military strategy had paved the way for Communist world conquest.

Goldwater lost the presidential election to incumbent Lyndon Baines Johnson. In evaluating the campaign, many JBS members realized that less emphasis on conspiracies and the Communist threat might have made for a more successful fight, and they left the society to form the nucleus of the "New Right."

At the time of Welch's death in 1983, JBS's influence and membership had greatly declined. However, active members claimed that President George H. W. Bush's involvement with the United Nations in the Gulf War and his call for a New World Order had validated their warnings about Illuminati at the highest level in U.S. government. Since then, Birchers have continued to align with nationalist groups and conspiracists who promulgate theories about secret societies, foreigners, and global elitists they believe threaten the U.S. with plots such as Agenda 21, the North American Union, NAFTA, and the Department of Education.

Many of the think tanks and organizations that powered the conservative movement's resurgence in the 1970s and '80s—the Cato Institute, Heritage Foundation—built on and mainstreamed the anti-government, conspiratorial fervor of Birch ideology. Post-9/11 conspiracies about Muslim extremist infiltration and sharia law pulled directly from JBS theories about the "enemy within," as did Tea Party-led claims that President Barack Obama was secretly a socialist.

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ALEX JONES

Alex Jones has been a leader in the alternative media for years, exposing a number of governmental subterfuges on his radio program that is broadcast nationwide.

In 2011 the *Activist Post* ranked Alex Jones at the top of its list of "The Most Influential People in the Alternative Media." Since beginning his career in Austin, Texas with a public access television program in 1996, Alexander Emrick "Alex" Jones has put himself at the center of many controversies, especially when he accused the U.S. government of being involved in the Oklahoma City bombing and the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center, or claiming that school shootings were fabricated.

When pressed to describe his political views, Jones usually answers that he is a libertarian, but he has also identified himself as a paleoconservative and an aggressive constitutionalist. For those in the mainstream of American culture, Jones is a right-wing conspiracy theorist, a description that he personally rejects despite having tied himself ever more closely since the 2016 presidential election with far-right conspiracy theorists influential in the Republican Party.

Right-wing radio show host Alex Jones has been a constant source of conspiracy theories. In this photo, he is leading protests against COVID-19 vaccinations in Austin, Texas.

A *Rolling Stone* article by Alexander Zaitchik described Jones as "a giant in America's conspiracy subculture" who made Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh sound like "tea-sipping NPR hosts on Zoloft" in comparison. The same article quoted Michael Harrison, editor of the industry trade magazine *Talkers*, as opining that "when the history is written of talk broadcasting's transition from the corporate model of the 20th century to the digital, independent model of the 21st century, [Jones] will be considered an early trailblazer."

Jones' syndicated news/talk show, *The Alex Jones Show*, is based in Austin. For years it aired over multiple FM and AM stations, along with various shortwave channels. and airs via the Genesis Communication Network over sixty AM, FM, and shortwave radio stations across the United States and the internet. His popular conspiracy websites include Infowars.com and PrisonPlanet.com.

Jones also produced numerous documentaries about what he saw as the inevitable totalitarian takeover of American, including: *America: Destroyed by Design* (1997), *Dark Secrets: Inside Bohemian Grove* (2000), *Police State 2000* (2000), *9-11: The Road to Tyranny* (2002), *The Masters of Terror* (2003), *A History of Government-sponsored Terrorism* (2006), and *Endgame: Blueprint for Global Enslavement* (2007).

In the 2010s and later, Jones spread his message primarily through his streaming Web shows and social media, gaining particular attention during the Trump administration when the president echoed many of Jones' conspiracy theories. Starting in 2018, numerous online channels began removing Jones' content, arguing that he was glorifying violence and hate speech.

Jones' position as one of the most powerful conspiracy influencers of the modern era has endured, with him either starting or latching onto and amplifying existing theories. Many of Jones' ideas pivoted around the idea of the "false flag" attacks. He exhorted his followers that events from 9/11 to the Newtown shootings were either planned by insiders or entirely faked scenarios designed to pump up fear and make people cow before authority. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he frequently warned that public health officials instituting restrictions on public activity were acting like "tyrants" and aligned himself with anti-vaccination theorists.

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KENNEDY DEATH LIST

Those who remain convinced that the JFK assassination was part of a much larger conspiracy also remain convinced that as many as 120 individuals have suffered "highly coincidental" or "convenient" deaths for knowing too much about that dark day in Dallas when the president was murdered.

Some conspiracy theorists enumerate some 120 individual deaths associated with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy that they label as "convenient" or "highly coincidental." As with all of the body counts or death lists that we include in this encyclopedia, we add our disclaimer that many of the individuals that we find on such lists may have been elderly, suffered from long-term illnesses, killed in the line of duty, met their demise in accidents totally devoid of nefarious circumstances, or committed suicide of their own free will. At the same time, conspiracy researchers remind us that the CIA and other secret government agencies have developed means of making murders appear to be deaths due to natural causes or accident. Some of these methods are designed to be able to avoid detection in autopsies and postmortem examinations. Various insidious techniques involve the injection of cancer cells, heart attack inducements, and absorption of deadly, untraceable poison.

Various insidious techniques involve the injection of cancer cells, heart attack inducements, and absorption of deadly, untraceable poison.

There are some deaths on these lists that do seem quite suspicious, and that is why we include them for your own assessment.

Karyn Kupcinet, November 1963: The murder of popular Chicago television personality Irv Kupcinet's daughter Karyn is firmly established in Kennedy assassination lore. In 1963, Karyn was a twenty-three-year-old actress trying to build a career in Hollywood. According to reports, she was trying to make a long-distance call when the operator heard her scream that the president was going to be assassinated. She was found murdered in her apartment two days after Kennedy's death.

Jack Zangretti, November 1963: Zangretti died of a gunshot wound after he claimed a foreknowledge of Jack Ruby's plan to kill Lee Harvey Oswald.

Eddy Benavides, February 1964: Benavides died of a gunshot to the head. He closely resembled his brother, Domingo, who was a witness to Oswald's shooting of Dallas police officer J. D. Tippit.

Betty McDonald, February 1964: McDonald, a former employee of Jack Ruby, allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself in the Dallas jail.

Bill Chesher, March 1964: Chesher was suspected of having information linking Oswald and Ruby prior to the assassination of JFK and had reportedly said that he had seen them driving together. Twenty-nine-year-old Chesher died of a heart attack while in the hospital.

Bill Hunter, April 1964: Hunter, a reporter for the *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, had flown to Dallas to cover the assassination's aftermath. On November 24, 1963, he secured access to Ruby's apartment. The following spring, he was accidentally shot and killed by a Long Beach policeman.

Gary Underhill, May 1964: Underhill, a CIA agent who claimed the Agency was involved in the assassination, died of a gunshot wound to the head that was ruled a suicide.

Guy Banister, June 1964: Former FBI agent Banister—who had New Orleans connections to the CIA, David Ferrie, Oswald, and local mob boss Carlos Marcello—died of a sudden heart attack.

Jim Koethe, September 1964: Koethe, a reporter for the *Dallas Times-Herald* and friend of recently killed journalist Bill Hunter, was killed by a karate chop to the back of the neck while stepping out of the shower in his apartment.

Mary Pinchot, October 1964: Pinchot, a "special friend" of JFK and ex-wife of senior CIA official Cord Meyer, was killed in a mugging. Her diary was confiscated by CIA chief James Angleton. Writer C. David Heymann says Meyer gave him a deathbed confession pinning her death on "the same sons of bitches that killed John F. Kennedy."

Tom Howard, March 1965: Attorney Howard spoke to Ruby shortly after he killed Oswald. On March 27, 1965, he suddenly became ill and was driven to a hospital by an unidentified individual. Within hours, Howard was dead, allegedly of a heart attack. No autopsy was performed.

Mona B. Saenz, August 1965: Saenz, a Texas employment clerk who had interviewed Oswald, was struck and killed by a Dallas city bus.

Dorothy Kilgallen, November 1965: Kilgallen was a well-known newspaper columnist and television panelist who privately interviewed Ruby before and during his trial. Ruby told her he was friends with officer J. D. Tippit, who often frequented Ruby's Carousel Club. Two weeks before the assassination, Tippit and Ruby were in the company of Texas oil man Bernard Weissman, the person responsible for the "JFK Wanted for Treason" ads in the Dallas newspapers on November 22, 1963. Kilgallen told friends that she had enough information to break the whole story of the Kennedy assassination wide open, and she began to leak hints of this scoop in her syndicated column. On November 8, 1965, she was found dead, fully clothed, sitting upright on her bed. The autopsy report, which took eight days to complete, ruled death from alcohol and barbiturates.

Mrs. Earl T. Smith, November 1965: Two days after Dorothy Kilgallen's death, Smith, one of her closest friends and one in whom she was likely to have confided her findings about the Kennedy assassination, was found dead of "undetermined causes."

Karen "Little Lynn" Carlin, January 1966: According to witnesses, Carlin was the last person to speak with Ruby before he killed Oswald. She was killed with gunshot wounds to the head.

Earlene Roberts, January 1966: Roberts, Oswald's landlady in Dallas, was said by friends and other witnesses to have been subjected to hours of police interrogation and harassment. She was found dead of a heart attack in her home. No autopsy was performed.

Albert Bogard, February 1966: Bogard, a Dallas car salesman, showed a new Mercury to a man using the name "Lee Oswald." Shortly after giving his testimony to Warren Commission investigators, Bogard was hospitalized after being badly beaten. Released from the hospital, Bogard returned to his hometown of Hallsville, Texas. He was found dead in a local cemetery in an automobile with a hose attached to the exhaust. The autopsy ruling was suicide.

Lee Bowers Jr., August 1966: Bowers witnessed a suspicious man standing behind the picket fence on the grassy knoll at the time of the assassination. He was killed in an automobile accident.

James Worrell Jr., November 1966: Worrell saw a man run from the rear of the Texas School Book Depository after Kennedy was murdered. Worrell was killed in an automobile accident.

Jack Ruby, January 1967: Ruby told family members that he had been injected with cancer cells, giving him the lung cancer that killed him.

David Ferrie, February 1967: Ferrie, the pilot and possible CIA handler for Oswald, died of a brain hemorrhage just as New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison was planning to arrest him. Ferrie had told others that Garrison thought he was a getaway pilot for the assassins. Despite the presence of a suicide note, some believed he had been murdered by a blow to the head.

Eladio Cerefine Del Valle, February 1967: Del Valle, an anti-Castro Cuban associate of David Ferrie, was killed on the same day as Ferrie by an axe blow and gunshot wound to the skull.

Hale Boggs, October 1972: Boggs, the House majority leader, was the only Warren Commission member who publicly expressed doubt about their findings that there was no conspiracy. Boggs accused FBI director J. Edgar Hoover of lying about Oswald, Ruby, and their associates, and also believed that the agency was tapping his phone. Boggs disappeared on a flight from Anchorage to Juneau, Alaska, on October 16, 1972. Neither the plane nor any bodies were ever found.

Clay Shaw, August 1974: Shaw, reportedly a CIA contact with Ferrie for Oswald, was the prime suspect in the case that Garrison was building for a conspiracy in the Kennedy assassination. He died of cancer.

William Pawley, January 1977: Pawley, a former ambassador to Brazil who was connected to anti-Castro Cubans, was found dead of a gunshot wound, ruled a suicide.

George De Mohrenschildt, March 1977: De Mohrenschildt was a colorful Russian emigree, Texas oil man, and possible CIA contract agent who had befriended the Oswalds and was close enough to the Bouviers (Jacqueline Kennedy's family) that the president's widow supposedly called him "Uncle George." In 1977, investigative journalist Wilhelm Oltmans said De Mohrenschildt said that he had helped Oswald plan the assassination. Not long after, De Mohrenschildt was found dead of a gunshot wound, ruled a suicide.

Lou Staples, May 1977: A popular Dallas radio talk show host, Staples swore that he would break the JFK assassination case. He was found with a gunshot wound to the head, ruled a suicide.

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JOHN F. KENNEDY, ASSASSINATION OF

Conspiracy theorists agree that anyone who accepts the Warren Commission's "lone gunman" and "magic bullet" theories is living in the Land of Oz.

On November 22, 1963, at precisely 12:30 P.M. in Dealey Plaza, Dallas, Texas, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the thirty-fifth president of the United States, was shot while riding in a motorcade. Less than half an hour later, Kennedy was pronounced dead. Vice President Lyndon Baines Johnson was sworn in as president just hours later on Air Force One, which was carrying Kennedy's body back to Washington. Dallas police quickly arrested Lee Harvey Oswald for the assassination. Oswald himself was shot and killed two days later on live television by Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby.

The assassination and its aftermath became a hinge moment in American history, heightening the anxiety of a nation at the height of Cold War tensions. Deep uncertainty was created by what appeared to be a rushed and sloppy investigation, and further fueled by unsatisfactory answers, a lack of closure, and a sprawling gallery of rogue government operatives and criminal elements who all seemed to have reasons to kill the president. Into that vortex poured a host of theories and counter-theories about who killed Kennedy. While many of these ideas are contradictory, their ubiquity and the fervency of their supporters has ensured that, even though numbers have dropped recently, a majority of Americans still believe there was a conspiracy in which multiple people—not just Oswald, who may not even have been involved—plotted the assassination.

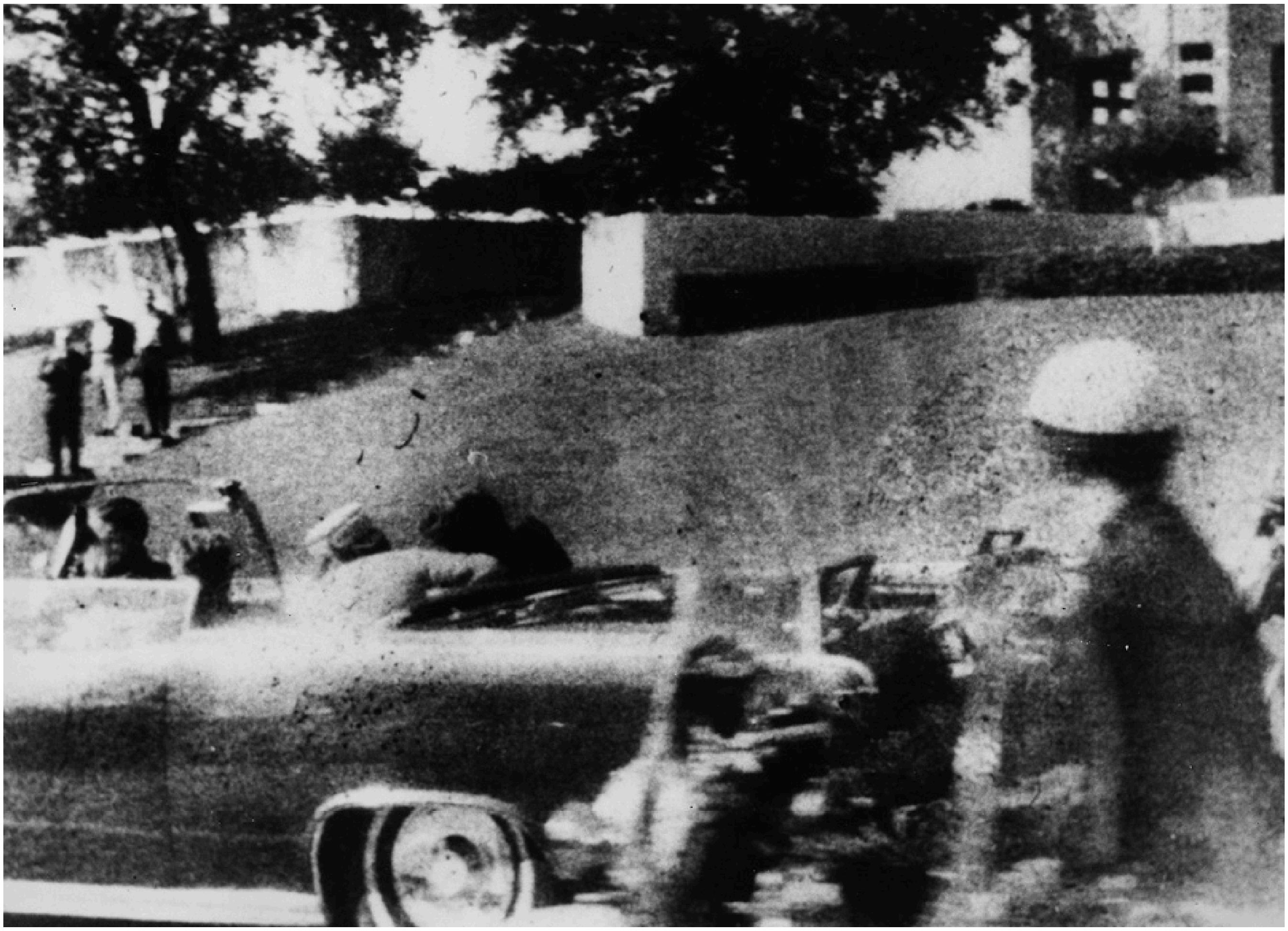
Much of the dissatisfaction can be traced to the U.S. Commission to Report upon the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy, popularly called the Warren Commission as it was led by Chief Justice Earl Warren. Hastily cobbled together and encouraged to deliver a report (any report) as soon as possible, the Warren Commission was cause for concern well before they were done. Their report came up with a simple and definitive answer—Oswald alone was responsible for killing Kennedy—which could not be subjected to the more intensive fact-finding of a trial since the purported perpetrator was dead. Questions began to swirl about whether the Warren Commission was trying to cover up for the true killers and whether those killers were government elements who wanted themselves rid of Kennedy, in which case the killing would be less a murder than coup d'état.

This is the official version of what happened on November 22, 1963: The shots that killed President Kennedy and wounded Texas governor John Connally (riding in the open-top presidential limousine with the First Lady and his wife) were fired from the sixth-floor window at the southeast corner of the Texas School Book Depository overlooking Dealey Plaza. All three shots were fired by Oswald, the sole assassin. Oswald also killed Dallas police patrolman J. D. Tippit approximately forty-five minutes after the assassination. No conspiracy was involved in the death of the president.

The Warren Commission further concluded that a single bullet passed through President Kennedy's body and continued on a course that allowed it to strike Governor Connally. A second shot from Oswald then struck Kennedy in the head and killed him, while a third bullet missed the presidential automobile altogether, making a total of three rounds allegedly fired from Oswald's bolt-action rifle in less than six seconds. That improbable timeframe, combined with the hard-to-believe trajectory of what came to be known as the second "magic bullet" (the trajectory indicated by the commission was nonsensical from a ballistics perspective) became some of the most derided parts of the report.

Skeptics later pointed to the famous home movie of the assassination taken by Abraham Zapruder and insisted that it shows Kennedy to be hit long before Connally, who continued to hold his hat in his hand, was struck by the remarkable bullet. In 1998, Nellie Connally, then the last surviving passenger of the car, stubbornly asserted the claim she first made right after the assassination: the Warren Commission was wrong in concluding that one bullet struck both Kennedy and her husband. "I will fight anybody that argues with me about those three shots," she told *Newsweek*. Both Connallys always insisted that the first shot hit Kennedy, a second bullet wounded the governor, and a third struck Kennedy's head, killing the president.

Even though questions abounded, national trauma, the full-speed-ahead momentum of the Johnson administration, and a national media that mostly accepted the official narrative kept most of them from being widely aired. The dam began to break in 1966, when Mark Lane published *Rush to Judgement*, which became an immediate bestseller. An activist lawyer disturbed by discrepancies between the Warren Commission report and contradictory eyewitness testimony, Lane cast doubt on most of the report's conclusions, asking why it dismissed the people who heard additional shots coming from the plaza's "grassy knoll," a sloping hill leading to a concrete wall on the north side of Elm Street, and in particular undercutting Oswald being a lone assassin.



This photograph by spectator Mary Ann Moorman was taken just moments after President Kennedy was shot. Sixty years after the assassination, the mystery of who killed Kennedy and why remains unsolved.

After this, conspiracy theories quickly took off. Already in 1967, *Time* magazine was referring to "assassination buffs." Some theories were inculcated far from the mainstream, like the photocopied manuscript *Nomenclature of an Assassination Cabal*, by William Torbitt, which began circulating among conspiracy researchers in 1970. Among the document's assertions condemning those involved in the murder of JFK are the following:

- ⦿ The assassination was carried out by FBI director J. Edgar Hoover's elite Division Five.
- ⦿ NASA and a little-known group headed by Wernher von Braun, Defense Industrial Security Command, had a part in the assassination.

- The same cabal had unsuccessfully planned the assassination of Charles de Gaulle in 1962.
- If the lone-gunman theory failed, the cabal had deceptions in preparation that would blame the anti-Castro groups in Florida or Fidel Castro himself.
- Lyndon B. Johnson, John Connally, and Clay Shaw, a New Orleans businessman with alleged CIA connections, were involved in the plot.

Later books like Jim Marrs' *Crossfire* (1989) and New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's *On the Trail of the Assassins* (1988), which were the basis for Oliver Stone's monumentally influential movie *JFK* (1991), kept mainstream interest percolating. Meanwhile, an entire industry of diligent researchers and investigators hunted down every possible clue, examined every fragment of evidence, and tried to make sense of the spaghetti-like connections between secret government agencies, law enforcement, political operatives (Communist and anti-Communist), and the criminal underworld in 1963.

Perhaps the most popular theory, and one supported by Mark Lane, is that Kennedy was killed by the CIA. The Agency's rogue reputation and well-established comfort with using dark means to subvert governments around the world (including assassination and psychological warfare) made this theory highly believable. Some speculated that the Agency was retaliating for Kennedy's passing National Security Action Memos 55, 56, and 57, which essentially splintered the CIA into multiple competitive branches and defused the power that the Agency had enjoyed since its creation at the end of World War II. The legendary "three tramps" arrested and mysteriously released by Dallas police the day of the assassination are thought to have been CIA agents, possibly even figures like E. Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis who were later tied to the Watergate break-in.

Many CIA and non-CIA theories are enlivened by the colorful presence of Mafioso. The Mob's presence in the conspiracy is explained as their having felt betrayed by Kennedy when, despite their having helped him win the 1960 presidential election, he allowed the Attorney General (his brother, Robert Kennedy) to launch a massive investigation of organized crime, which until then had been mostly ignored by Hoover's FBI.

Another theory that ranks high with conspiracists is that the military assassinated Kennedy in revenge for his refusing to provide air cover for the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion, a spectacularly embarrassing failed attempt to overthrow Fidel Castro. There was also widespread dissatisfaction in military industrial complex circles with Kennedy's attempts to ratchet down Soviet Cold War tensions and promising to withdraw from Vietnam, which would have negatively impacted private defense firms' profits and the military's budget. Variations of this theory also include a gallery of CIA, Mafia, Cuban exiles, mercenaries, and political operatives as side characters, plotters, and gunmen.

Some of the other possible culprits in the assassination include, but are by all means not limited to, the following:

- Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, who wanted to get back at Kennedy for embarrassing him in the Cuban Missile Crisis. New CIA documents released in 2017 added a grain of support to this theory, with one claiming that Oswald—during his unsuccessful attempt to gain asylum from Cuba or the USSR in Mexico City two months before the assassination—had been in contact with a KGB agent "responsible for sabotage and assassination."

- Fidel Castro, who was (perhaps understandably) sick and tired of all the CIA attempts to assassinate him.
- The South Vietnamese, who blamed Kennedy for signing off on the CIA-encouraged coup that led to the assassination of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem on November 2, 1963.
- Yankee legend Joe DiMaggio, who believed that the Kennedys had murdered his ex-wife Marilyn Monroe to conceal her affair with the president.
- Charles Harrelson, father of the actor Woody Harrelson, legendary Texas criminal and supposed hitman who actually carried business cards announcing his skills (including "assassinations plotted"). Sentenced to life in prison for killing a federal judge, Charles claimed at one point to have killed the president.

Tying many of the Kennedy conspiracies together was a deep underlying belief in the existence of a secret government, composed of amoral power-hungry and mostly unelected figures who worked behind the scenes to undermine democracy and keep the world in a state of profitable chaos and conflict. Connected by an overriding belief in a government cover-up of a government-led or at least -enabled crime, most Kennedy conspiracies can be plotted on a spectrum, with one end pointing to a smaller number of potentially rogue actors while at the other end positing a secret government overthrow orchestrated by Johnson. But while the theorists argued over who shot Kennedy from where and why, they all agreed that Oswald was at best a pawn in a bigger game.

It is an article of faith in most Kennedy conspiracy theories that Oswald was indeed just a "patsy," as he claimed to Dallas police after his arrest. His being so quickly gunned down by Ruby, who was linked to some of the same Mafia figures who might have helped the CIA with various dirty deeds, seemed an all-too-convenient tying up of a loose end.

The sheer unlikeliness of Oswald as the killer of the most powerful man in the world also played into the believability of many theories about him. Historian William Manchester wrote that "The crime seemed too vast to be attributed to a single criminal. Ford's Theatre was remembered as the building in which one man shot [Abraham] Lincoln, but Dallas became the city where 'they' killed Kennedy."

A 24-year-old malcontent who liked picking fights and complaining about the raw deal life had given him, Oswald served in the Marines for a few years, including a stint at an air base in Japan where U-2 spy planes were based for missions over the Soviet Union. Right after being discharged in 1959, Oswald—a loudly dedicated Marxist since his adolescence—defected to the Soviet Union, where he failed to impress the KGB as a valuable intelligence source. Bundled off to a factory job in Minsk, Oswald tired of life in his imagined worker's paradise and returned to America in 1962 with a Russian wife, Marina Prusakova, and child. Numerous theorists have pointed to the ease with which a vocal Communist like Oswald was let back into America after trying to deliver secrets to the Soviets, at a time when people were still blacklisted for mere leftist tendencies, as proof that he was actually an asset for the CIA who could have been either used as an assassin or convinced to act as a decoy.

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Conspiracy researchers have also disputed whether Oswald, despite being classified a sharpshooter by the Marines, could accurately hit a moving target at such a considerable distance with the bolt-action rifle allegedly in his possession. Many theorists insist that there is physical, medical, and ballistics evidence that would force any fair-minded panel of experts to conclude that one person could not have fired so many shots so quickly with such a rifle. Although the rifle had a clip containing a number of cartridges, the bolt had to be manually pulled back to eject the spent cartridge after each shot, then slammed into place again to move a fresh cartridge into the breech. Those experienced with such rifles severely doubted that a steady bead on a target could be maintained with the accuracy shown in the assassination in the short time frame concluded by the Warren Commission.

Many theorists insist that there is physical, medical, and ballistics evidence that would force any fair-minded panel of experts to conclude that one person could not have fired so many shots so quickly with such a rifle.

Many investigators have pondered the strange links between Oswald, a possible CIA-trained assassin, and David Ferrie, a possible CIA operative. Ferrie may have met Oswald when the latter was a teenager in New Orleans, and they were both in the Civil Air Patrol. According to some Oswald-Kennedy assassination buffs, Ferrie may have been employed as a U-2 spy plane pilot. They attribute his alopecia (a loss of body hair which he compensated for by wearing a garish wig and cartoonish fake eyebrows) to radiation that came from flying the U-2 at high altitudes. Ferrie was also linked to the New Orleans Mafia and had connections with the CIA and anti-Castro Cubans. When Oswald was apprehended after the assassination, the FBI informed Jim Garrison that they had found Ferrie's library card in Oswald's wallet. Although this bit of intelligence would certainly suggest that the two men knew each other, strangely enough, the library card was not in Oswald's effects checked in by the Dallas police. Later, Perry Russo claimed that he had been at a party in New Orleans where local businessman Clay Shaw talking about the assassination plot with Oswald and Ferrie. Though Garrison pursued charges against Shaw, he was later acquitted.

Ruby, the hot-tempered and likely mentally unbalanced Dallas nightclub owner (nicknamed "Sparky" for his tendency to viciously beat people for little reason) who shot down Oswald on live network television, is another piece of the puzzle who does not quite seem to fit. A number of witnesses who spoke to investigators swear they saw Oswald, or a man looking very much like him, speaking with Ruby at his Carousel Club in Dallas several times before the assassination. Several of those witnesses suffered mysterious fatal accidents not long after making such an identification. Additionally, Ruby's stated reasons for killing Oswald —his desire to save Jacqueline Kennedy the strain of a trial—and the ease with which he walked through a throng of police and opened fire did not seem to make much sense.

There are numerous other reasons that people have rejected the Warren Commission's findings over the years. Here are some of the apparent discrepancies that muddy the official narrative:

- The parade route was altered at the last minute, bringing it into Dealey Plaza, where the assassins awaited the president.

Jack Ruby shoots Lee Harvey Oswald as Oswald is being transferred to prison in this 1964 Pulitzer Prize-winning photography by Robert H. Jackson for the Dallas Times-Herald.

- Despite warnings by the FBI about threats against Kennedy in Dallas—which in late 1963 was a hotbed of right-wing fanaticism—there was limited protection that day for the president. Someone had ordered the 112th Military Intelligence Group, an army unit specially trained in protection, to stand down.
- The Zapruder film of the assassination shows Kennedy's head being thrust violently backward and to the left, which could be inconsistent with a shot fired from behind.
- Oswald was discovered by a co-worker only ninety seconds after the shooting, calmly drinking a soda on the second floor of the Texas School Book Depository. The rifle allegedly used in the assassination was found on the sixth floor, along with shell casings.
- Several eyewitnesses in Dealey Plaza encountered individuals identifying themselves as Secret Service agents. The Secret Service has repeatedly claimed that it had no agents on the ground in Dealey Plaza at any time that day.
- Numerous witnesses in the plaza noticed men behaving strangely behind the picket fence on the grassy knoll. Some witnesses with military experience stated firmly that they recognized the sound of gunshots coming from behind them while they were standing on the grassy knoll.

- Acoustical evidence suggests at least four shots were fired that day in Dealey Plaza.
- Dallas doctors reported the president's throat wound as an entry wound, meaning the bullet came from the front.
- While Dallas doctors should have performed an autopsy, Kennedy's body was flown back to Washington for a military autopsy.
- News media around the world reported Oswald's guilt, complete with extensive background data on this allegedly unknown assassin, before he was even charged with the crime.
- In 1992, two former navy medical technicians who witnessed the autopsy of Kennedy said that the Warren Commission had been supplied with fake photographs and X-rays. Jerrol Custer, who X-rayed the body, and Floyd Riebe, who photographed the autopsy proceedings, said that they were told by the Secret Service to keep their mouths shut about what they had seen.
- President Kennedy's brain has never been found.
- Perhaps as many as 120 witnesses or individuals who had knowledge of the Kennedy assassination have died mysteriously.
- Numerous figures whom researchers connected to covering up the assassination were Freemasons—Hoover, Johnson, Warren, and Commission members Allen Dulles (also a former CIA director) and Gerald Ford (who some believe was rewarded with the presidency for manipulating findings in the report)—suggesting the entire operation was coordinated by the secret group.
- According to Bonar Menninger's 1992 book *Mortal Error*, the Secret Service might have covered up evidence that the third and fatal shot did not come from Oswald but was in fact from one of their agents in the car behind Kennedy who accidentally shot the president after losing his balance.

In April 2011, the internet was abuzz with claims that ten days before his assassination Kennedy wrote a memo demanding that the CIA show him the highly classified documents regarding UFOs. In a second memo directed to the NASA administrator, Kennedy suggested that he should meet with officials in the Soviet Union and discuss mutual problems concerning outer space. Researcher William Lester theorized Kennedy was concerned the Soviets might interpret the UFOs as hostile and conclude they were a secret U.S. weapon.

UFO researchers stated that the memos revived the claims that had surrounded the so-called "burned file," which a CIA whistleblower recovered from a fire set by the agency to burn sensitive files. The first page of the document is said to carry a message from CIA Director James Angleton stating that "Lancer" (the Secret Service's code name for Kennedy) had made inquiries regarding classified UFO investigations that the CIA could not permit to be answered. Many UFO conspiracists thus conclude that such a directive resulted in a CIA hit squad assassinating President John F. Kennedy.

In some ways the official narrative is itself a conspiracy theory. Oswald, a stridently pro-Cuban Marxist, could well have been so infuriated by Kennedy's strong anti-Castro stance that it might have motivated him (with the possible support of the Castro regime) to kill the president. Afterwards, the Cuban connection could then have been hushed up by Washington. Numerous reports have described Johnson as pushing the members of the Warren Commission to ignore any hint of Castro support for the assassination in order to avoid getting the public pushing for a potentially catastrophic war of revenge with Cuba and its nuclear-armed ally the Soviet Union.

With a reported 2,000-odd books and uncounted articles already written about the Kennedy assassination, and more likely to come, there is seemingly no end of possible theories.

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JOHN F. KENNEDY JR., DEATH OF

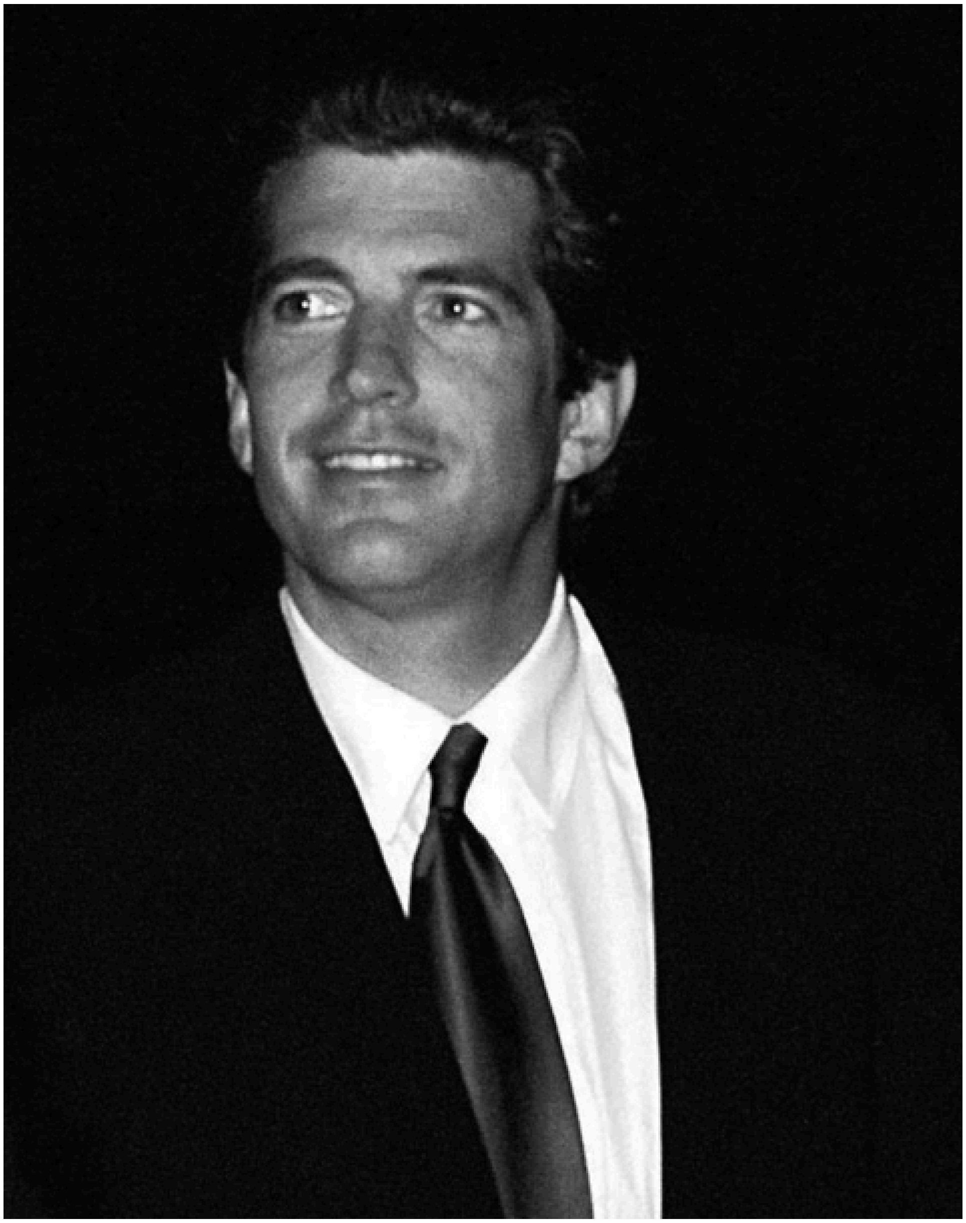
The world was shocked when John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, and his sister-in-law were killed in an airplane that Kennedy was piloting. Few were surprised when some conspiracy theorists began declaring that the crash was no accident, but other theorists pursued a different possibility: He never actually died.

John F. Kennedy Jr., the son of assassinated president John F. Kennedy, was America's golden boy. Handsome, charming, articulate, and relatively gossip-free, young John was long viewed as a powerful potential political force should he ever decide to run. He had won the hearts of many when seen on television saluting his father's flag-draped coffin on its way to Arlington Cemetery in November 1963. Later, he launched the glossy, celebrity-filled political magazine *George*. There was little doubt that he could also win at the voting booth.

For number of conspiracy theorists, however, it was that Kennedy charisma—and the possibility that he was shortly going to reveal his political ambitions—that cost John Jr. his life. In 1998, Kennedy had purchased a small single-engine Piper Saratoga plane and gotten his pilot's license. On the night of July 16, 1999, Kennedy was flying himself, his wife Carolyn Bessette, and his sister-in-law, Lauren Bessette, to Martha's Vineyard with an eight-mile visibility. After radioing the ground to tell them he would be dropping off a passenger (Lauren) and then resuming the flight to Hyannis airport. In the next few minutes, according to news reports, Kennedy's plane went into a steep dive and crashed into the ocean.

According to the National Transportation Safety Board's report, the "probable cause" of the accident was "pilot's failure to maintain control" due to "haze and the dark night." Some theorists have claimed that what they say are false reports in the media about poor flying conditions and Kennedy's lack of experience indicate an attempted cover up.

Some conspiracy theorists at the time were firmly convinced that Kennedy was murdered before he could announce that he would run for president. If he had lived and won the election, he would have been forty years old, just slightly younger than his father when he ran for president. One claim later propagated on social media said that Kennedy had expressed interest in running for Daniel Moynihan's seat after the New York senator announced his retirement. It then linked his death later that year to Hillary Clinton's decision to run for the same seat, which she eventually won.



John F. Kennedy Jr. is shown here in 1998, not long before his death in a plane crash, although some QAnon followers say his death was faked.

Theories about Kennedy's death eventually took a dramatically different turn. After the election of President Donald Trump in 2016, some believers in the QAnon conspiracy declared that Kennedy had faked his death. Even though Kennedy was a lifelong Democrat, this theory had it that he had actually been living in secret with Carolyn since 1999, posting secret dispatches as "Q", and working with Trump to expose the deep state network plotting to undermine the presidency. Believers in this theory thought Kennedy attended Trump rallies in disguise and would potentially replace Mike Pence as vice president. On the 2021 anniversary of Kennedy's father's assassination, a crowd of QAnon followers spent weeks in Dallas' Dealey Plaza waiting for Kennedy to reveal himself.

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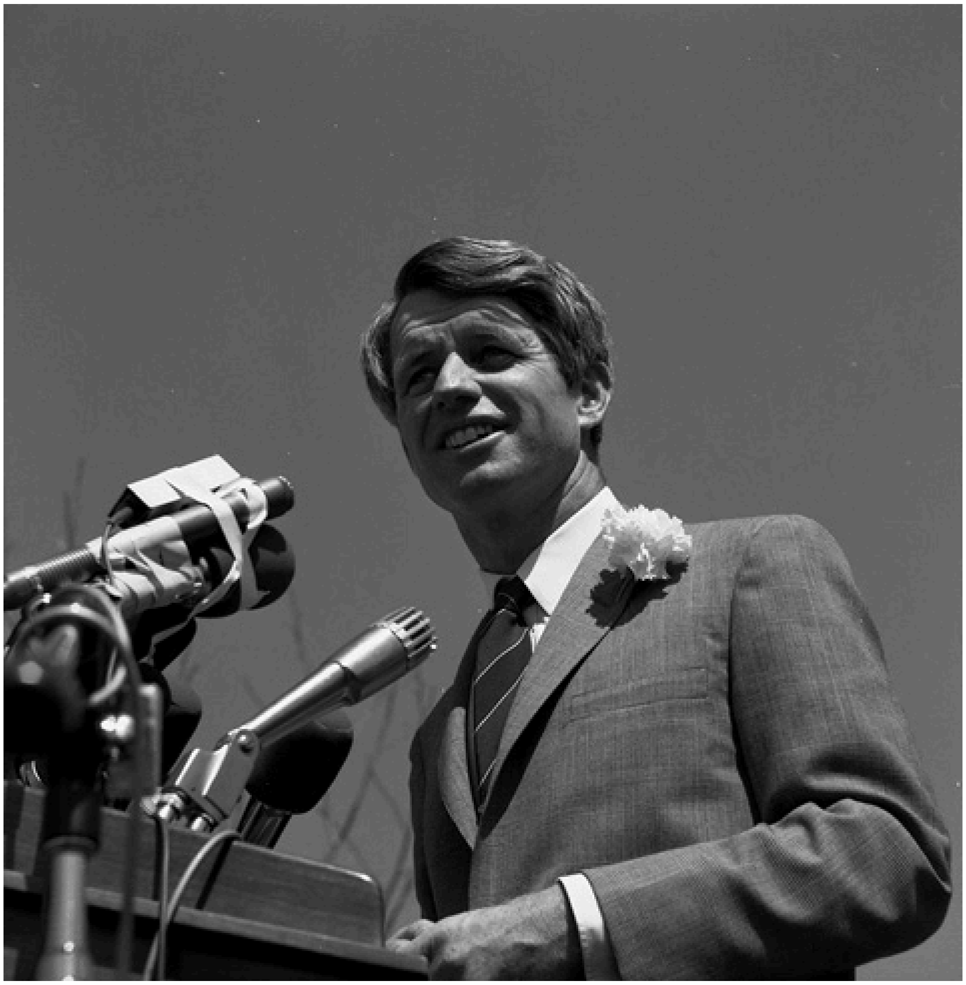
ROBERT F. KENNEDY, ASSASSINATION OF

Sirhan Sirhan was programmed by occult "Masters" to be the "slave" who would kill Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

When Robert F. Kennedy was on the presidential campaign trail in 1968, journalists asked him an obvious question over and over again: with the dark memory of the assassination of his brother President John F. Kennedy in November 1963 ever-present in the public consciousness, did Robert ever worry that he too might be killed by an assassin? Kennedy, a man of faith and optimism, often replied wryly that anyone who really wanted to get him probably could, but that he preferred to live his life in the hope of serving his country, not in fear.



Robert F. Kennedy, brother to John F. Kennedy, was campaigning for president in 1968 when he was assassinated by Sirhan Sirhan.

On June 5, 1968, the first anniversary of the Six-Day War between Israel and Egypt, Robert Kennedy's grimly fatalistic words came to pass when he was gunned down in the kitchen of Los Angeles's historic Ambassador Hotel, just minutes after winning the California Democratic primary election. His assassin was a thin, dark-haired young Palestinian who shouted, "Kennedy, you son of a bitch!" as he fired a .22 revolver at least eight times. Kennedy was hit three times. Paul Schrade, Kennedy's speechwriter, was shot in the forehead. William Weisel, Ira Goldstein, Erwin Stroll, and Elizabeth Evans were also hit by bullets from the assassin's revolver. All survived their injuries except Kennedy, who died at 2 A.M., June 6, at Good Samaritan Hospital.

Once police had Sirhan in custody, he refused to give his name, saying that he preferred to remain incognito. However, once at the police station, Sirhan talked about everything, it seemed, but the terrible act he had just committed. He spoke philosophically about the nature of justice; he displayed his financial acumen by discoursing on the stock market; he proved he was literate in conversing about Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*; he demonstrated that he was not ignorant about crime and murder by discussing several homicide cases that had occurred in Los Angeles. When a policeman challenged him to give his name by accusing him of being ashamed, the slightly built assassin snapped that "hell, no," he was not.

Soon enough, the authorities learned that the murderer was Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, a Palestinian Christian born in Jerusalem in 1944. Before the Sirhan family immigrated to America in 1956 and eventually settled in California, the twelve-year-old boy had already witnessed a great amount of bloodshed in the fighting that convulsed his homeland. Growing to a height of only five feet five and weighing 120 pounds, Sirhan for a time aspired to become a jockey but concluded that he didn't have the nerve such an occupation required.

Being Christian, Sirhan found no appeal in Islamic militancy. But he was devastated when one of his heroes, the Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser, and the armies of Egypt and several other Arab countries were easily defeated by Israel in the Six-Day War. It was at this time that Sirhan found solace in the occult. He got a part-time job at a Pasadena occult bookstore and while there read all the books on self-hypnotism, astral projection, and mind control that he could not afford to buy. In May 1968 he joined the Rosicrucians, an occult order that claims to be connected to the ancient priests of Egypt and the medieval mystical society formed by Christian Rosenkreuz in Germany.

Sirhan also began to write in his journal that he had become obsessed with killing Robert F. Kennedy. Apparently, his motive was to assassinate RFK before he could become president and so theoretically keep America from sending assistance to Israel. He wrote, "Kennedy must die by June 5th."

Sirhan's defense team, all of whom took the case pro bono, was headed by Grant Cooper and Russell Parsons. Sirhan was not pleased with his attorneys' defense on grounds of "diminished mental capacity."

When Sirhan took the stand, he told the courtroom how much he had loved President John Kennedy. He said that he had absolutely no memory of killing JFK's brother, but remembered that he had been angry with RFK, thinking the president's brother had broken a promise to return Israel to the Palestinians. Questioned repeatedly, Sirhan denied ever wanting to kill Kennedy. He said that he did not recognize the journal that the prosecution claimed was his or recall ever writing about assassinating Kennedy. Sirhan eventually conceded that he must have killed Kennedy, but he had no knowledge of doing so.

A parade of psychiatrists pronounced Sirhan to be suffering from "paranoid psychosis" and acting in a dissociated state. It was even suggested that he had killed Kennedy out of a repressed Oedipus complex. Dr. Bernard Diamond testified that he had hypnotized Sirhan several times and concluded that Sirhan had likely hypnotized himself and created self-induced trances that led to the assassination. The suggestion grew that during Sirhan's Rosicrucian and self-hypnosis experiments, he had gradually been programming himself to kill Kennedy.

On April 17, 1969, Sirhan was found guilty of first-degree murder and sentenced to death in the gas chamber. In 1972 California abolished the death penalty. Despite numerous requests for parole, Sirhan has remained in prison ever since, surviving a stabbing in 2019. He was denied parole again in January 2022 by California governor Gavin Newsome. His answers have varied over the years, including a claim that he was a dupe for mysterious individuals who hypnotized, drugged, and programmed him to kill Kennedy.

Some conspiracy theorists have made much out of a brief conversation Sirhan had with a ghostlike girl in a polka-dot dress shortly before he shot Kennedy. They have constructed elaborate plots involving several shooters in addition to Sirhan. Some contend that organized crime was behind the assassination. As a Senate Rackets Committee attorney and later attorney general, Kennedy had certainly infuriated plenty of mob bosses. The assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. just two months earlier, and Kennedy's activist pro-civil rights stance, caused some to think white supremacists were behind. There were theories that Arab terrorists conditioned Sirhan to be their hit man in getting revenge against Kennedy for his perceived indifference to the Palestinians' plight. Though there was little evidence for that idea, when Palestinian terrorist group Black September took hostages at the Saudi embassy in Khartoum, Sudan in 1973 and demanded a prisoner exchange, Sirhan was among the prisoners they wanted released.

As with the assassination of JFK, many theorists—including Kennedy's son Robert F. Kennedy Jr.—have suggested that Sirhan was a kind of Oswaldian patsy, who maybe never fired at all. While the shot that killed Kennedy was a point-blank hit behind his right ear, witnesses say Sirhan was to Kennedy's right and never got closer than 18 inches. When Sirhan's gun was tested in 1975, the rounds fired did not seem to match those from the assassination. Later analysis of the audio from the time of the assassination might have proved that there were actually thirteen, not eight, shots fired. That assertion lined up with the suspicions of people who believed that additional holes in the ceiling and nearby door, plus the number of wounds sustained, indicated far more than eight shots. If true, this alone would prove a second shooter, as Sirhan's revolver only held eight rounds and he was tackled before he could reload.

Since Kennedy, even more so than JFK, was opposed to continuing the Vietnam War, some theorists believe that the CIA might have been the ones to encourage Sirhan's murderous obsession. Could the CIA have exploited Sirhan's fascination with the occult and incorporated mysticism with one of their mind-control experiments? Conspiracy researchers have traced the CIA's MK-ULTRA program back to the occult societies of Nazi Germany and the early techniques of mind control developed by secret societies and fraternities linked to the New World Order.

When Sirhan's gun was tested in 1975, the rounds fired did not seem to match those from the assassination.

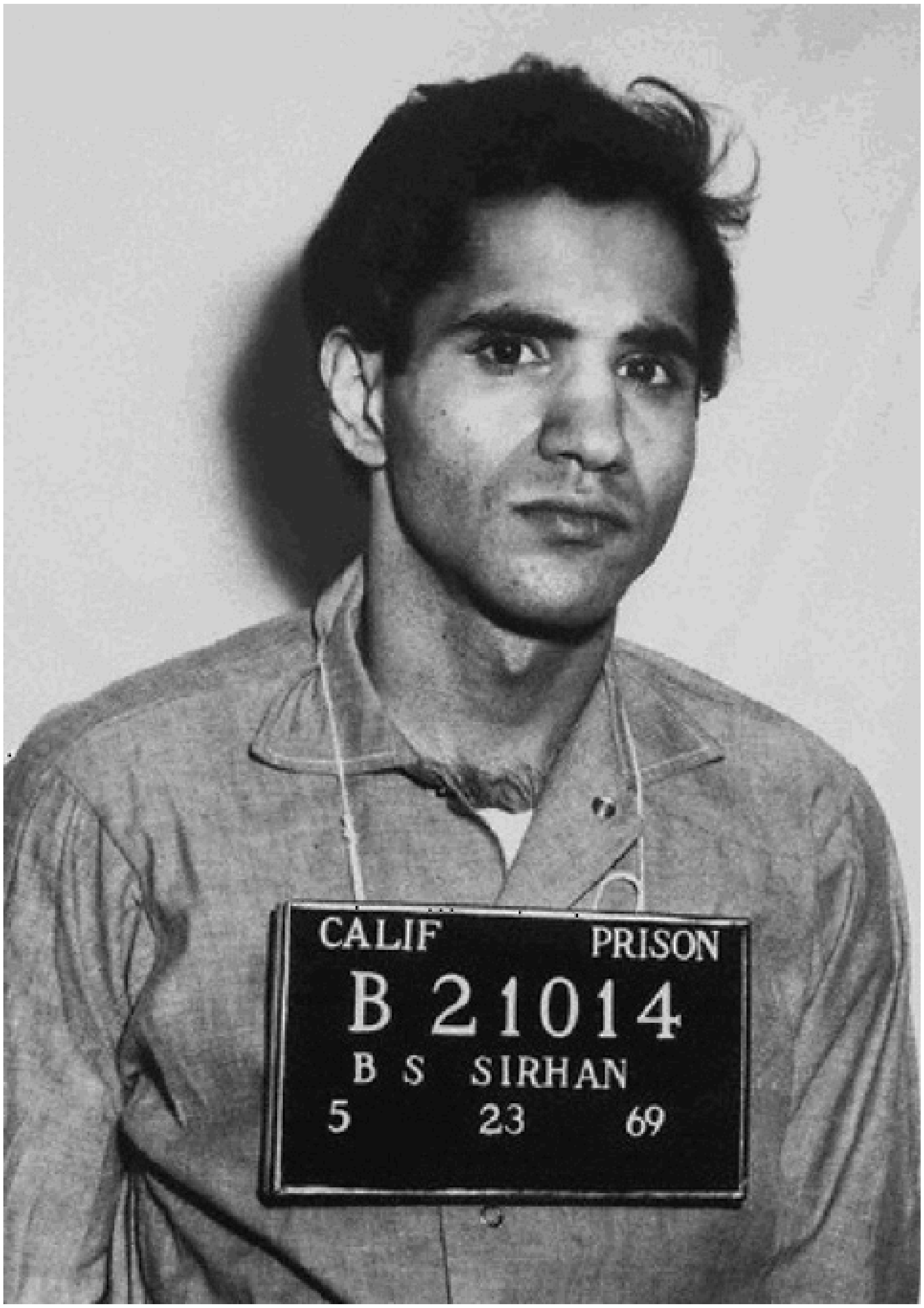
Overlooked in the horror of Kennedy's death was a familiar ritualistic element. A few feet from where Kennedy fell after being struck by the bullets from Sirhan's revolver was a large ice cabinet. Scrawled in crayon upon the front of the box was the inscription "The Once and Future King." Although the phrase was never publicly explained, conspiracy researchers know that such shibboleths have been used along with certain ritualistic symbols in other occult-motivated murders. The words do not refer to King Arthur or JFK's appropriation of Camelot to describe his modern court. Rather, the inscription heralds the handiwork of Satan, who, in the eyes of his minions both mortal and immortal, is the "once and future king" of Earth, the god worshipped by the New World Order.

Sirhan appeared to be in a state of tranquility following the shooting. The enormity of the deed failed to penetrate his consciousness. Author George Plimpton was one of the people there at the shooting who struggled to disarm Sirhan. Plimpton recalled, as did so many other witnesses to the shooting, that Sirhan had "enormously peaceful eyes." Others wondered if the assassin had been hypnotized or drugged.

After his arraignment, Sirhan calmly asked his jailers to bring him a copy of Madame Blavatsky's *Secret Doctrine*. It has been said that Ramon Mercader, the axe-wielding assassin of Leon Trotsky, the defrocked leader of the Russian revolution, contented himself during his twenty years in a Mexican prison by reading from his well-marked copy of Madame Blavatsky's tome. Mercader remains one of the most mysterious figures in the ignominious annals of assassins. Stalinists always denied any connection to the crime, and Mercader himself, when questioned about the grisly deed, never confessed to working for Stalin's secret NKVD agency. While imprisoned, Mercader displayed an incredible array of mental skills and memory feats. He could decipher codes in minutes and remember long sequences of numbers, words in foreign languages, and nonsense syllables. Although his physical senses were judged to be hypersensitive, when Mercader's pain threshold was tested, he could achieve seemingly superhuman feats. It seems apparent that the New World Order has been effectively selecting its assassins for years.

General Reinhard Gehlen, Hitler's chief of intelligence against Russia, was pulled out of the defeated German ranks by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in 1945 and taken to Washington to help William "Wild Bill" Donovan and Allen Dulles shape the Office of Central Intelligence, the future CIA. General Gehlen also brought papers detailing Dr. Josef Mengele's research in genetic engineering and behavior modification, as well as the experiments carried out at Dachau with prisoners placed under hypnosis and hallucinogenic drugs such as mescaline. The Nazi research inspired MK-ULTRA, a CIA program that followed the efforts of Project Chatter, created in response to the Soviet's supposed success with "truth drugs," Project Bluebird, fashioned to discover mind-control methods, and Project Artichoke, designed to utilize hypnosis and drugs as tools that would enable agents to resist interrogation.

Then there was Project Spellbinder. Although officially abandoned in 1964, various German doctors, veterans of the concentration camps, and shadow government operatives continued to develop this program, which was established to create "sleeper assassins" in the style of a "Manchurian Candidate," an assassin who has been programmed to kill upon receiving a key word or phrase while in a posthypnotic trance. Drawing upon their own background with occult secret societies, the "Spellbinders" conducted a satanic ritual while they were programming a subject to become an assassin. The goal of the ritual was to attach a demon or a group of demons to the entranced subject. The skeptic might say that the programmers were compartmentalizing the subject's mind into multiple personalities to reinforce the command to kill. In either event, the programmed assassin would believe that he was possessed by a demon or by a spirit who was guiding him and ordering him to kill. Norma Lee Browning of the *Chicago Tribune* learned that before Sirhan's trial began, his defense team was considering arguing that he had been possessed by the spirit of an Arab terrorist.



Sirhan Sirhan, who is 78 years old as of this writing, is still in prison for killing Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Sirhan, a Palestinian, murdered the senator for his support of Israel.

As Sirhan went through his Rosicrucian programming and worked at the occult bookstore, it would have been a simple matter for Spellbinder agents to contact him, make friends with him, and invite him to participate in their metaphysical studies. And once Sirhan had attended a number of meetings and been conditioned to assassinate Kennedy, all memory of his having attended the sessions would be erased from his mind.

According to conspiracy researchers, during the satanic ritual employed with the process of hypnotic conditioning and the occasional use of LSD, Sirhan would have come to consider himself the slave of the programmer, who would have the status of "master" or "god." During his interrogation by the police, Sirhan mentioned the Illuminati three times and referred to "Master Kuthumi." Kuthumi (or Koot Hoomi) was Madame Blavatsky's spirit teacher, but Sirhan's programmer may also have assumed this identity during the conditioning process.

Some investigators theorize that the key or "trigger" phrase for Sirhan may have been port wine, since these words are scrawled numerous times in his journal along with "RFK must be assassinated," written over and over until it fills the page. It was learned that Sirhan used candles and mirrors during his personal experiments with self-hypnosis. Spellbinder would soon have acquired this information and used it in their own programming sessions.

On the fateful night of June 6, 1968, Sirhan would have crossed the lobby of the Ambassador Hotel, with its bright lights and mirrors, entered the kitchen, heard an agent, perhaps disguised as a waiter, shout, "Port wine!" and pulled the trigger of his .22 revolver eight times, assassinating Kennedy precisely as planned.

Sirhan's request for parole in March 2011 was denied because, according to the parole panel, he had not displayed sufficient remorse for the murder. Interestingly, Sirhan's lawyers, William F. Pepper and Laurie Dusek, attempted to have new evidence admitted that restated their client's forty-year-old claim that he had been manipulated by a mysterious young woman in a polka dot dress. Under hypnosis, Sirhan claimed to remember how she had led him into the area where Kennedy would pass and pinched him on the shoulder when the presidential candidate appeared.

Sirhan said that he was fascinated by the young woman's looks and that she was a "seductress" with whom he was "consumed." The pinch on the shoulder acted as a trigger mechanism, and under the woman's spell he believed himself to be on a firing range shooting at targets. He did not realize that he held a gun or that he was shooting at anyone, let alone Robert Kennedy.

In addition to the hypnotic trigger argument, Pepper and Dusek claimed that before Sirhan's trial, an unidentified person switched a bullet before it was placed in evidence. The bullet was taken from Kennedy's neck, they said, citing alleged forensic evidence, but it did not match those taken from Sirhan's revolver.

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MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., ASSASSINATION OF

When the FBI tried to sell the idea of James Earl Ray as yet another "lone gunman" who had assassinated one of the nation's leaders, conspiracy theorists saw the shadowy hand of MK-ULTRA pulling the strings.

On April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was standing on the second-floor balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, when he was killed by a single shot from a high-powered rifle. Numerous witnesses said the shot had been fired from a clump of bushes on a slope across the street. The FBI decided that it had come from a rear bathroom window of a boardinghouse, also across the street but a bit higher up the hill. It was just one day after King had delivered his famous "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech, which included reflections on his own mortality.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is shown here talking at an anti-Vietnam War demonstration at the University of Minnesota in 1967.

Within two weeks James Earl Ray, a career criminal and convict on the run from the Missouri State Penitentiary, was named as the assassin. When Ray was identified as the sole suspect, dozens of investigators and researchers pronounced the FBI's conclusions as pure bunk. Nevertheless, the FBI felt they had identified their man and followed up on few, if any, other suspects. After he had spent time on the run in Canada and Portugal, Ray was arrested as he was changing airplanes at London's Heathrow Airport for a flight to Brussels.

Less than a year after the assassination, Ray, with his attorney Percy Foreman, pleaded guilty before the court of Judge Preston Battle on March 10, 1969. Ray was sentenced to ninety-nine years—and, as if awakening from a bad dream and finding himself in a terrible reality, he recanted, said he didn't kill King, and filed a motion for a trial only three days after being sentenced.

Before the month had ended, Judge Battle was found dead in his chambers, Ray's handwritten motion on the desk beneath his slumped body. Still protesting his innocence, Ray began his sentence in the Tennessee State Penitentiary.

Ray's story, and one believed by many investigators, was that the true mastermind of the killing was a mysterious individual named "Raoul," who appeared to have masterminded the assassination and played Ray as the patsy. Ray said that he was directed by Raoul to buy the rifle that killed King and that when the shooting happened, he was at least several blocks away.

In 1987, after being imprisoned for eighteen years, Ray published *Tennessee Waltz*, an account of his involvement in the King assassination. Ray tells of escaping from prison in April 1967 by hiding in a bread truck. Winding up in Montreal, he met a man known to him only as "Raoul" who pays Ray to serve as a courier in a gun-running ring Raoul then instructed Ray to travel to Mexico and wait for instructions before going on to Los Angeles to see a plastic surgeon for a "nose job" to change his appearance. Raoul also gave Ray enough money to enable him to purchase a pale yellow 1966 Mustang. Finally, Ray tells how Raoul gave him two assumed names to use in his travels—John Willard and Eric S. Galt—and another on a passport, Ramon George Sneyd. Ray wondered if the nose job that he underwent might have been intended to make him look more like one or more of the "assumed identities," who might have been real people. Ray said that Raoul apparently assumed numerous disguises, as a "blond Latin," a "red-haired French-Canadian," or an "auburn-haired Latino."

A link to MK-ULTRA, the CIA's mind-control project, may have occurred when Ray was recuperating from the plastic surgery. Dr. William Joseph Bryan Jr. had programmed individuals when he was with the air force as chief of Medical Survival Training, the air force's covert mind-control section. Bryan, whom some called pompous and arrogant, liked nothing better than to talk about himself and his accomplishments. He was known as an expert on brainwashing and served as a consultant on *The Manchurian Candidate*, a movie about a programmed political assassin. In informal discussions, Bryan "leaked" that he had programmed Sirhan Sirhan and Ray to commit assassinations and to forget their participation in the act. Bryan died under mysterious circumstances in 1977 when the Kennedy case was reopened.

In 1979, the House Select Committee on Assassinations concluded—based in part on Ray's ever-shifting story and his having identified as many as 20 different people as Raoul—that Raoul did not exist. In determining that Ray was responsible for killing King, the committee theorized that a $50,000 bounty on King's head put up by St. Louis supporters of arch-racist George Wallace was likely a large part of what motivated Ray, who was described by many people as a racist.

However, in 1996, Ray met with members of the King family and convinced them that he had not killed Martin Luther King Jr. Coretta Scott King and other family members joined efforts to get him a new trial in order to prove that there was a hidden conspiracy surrounding King's death. Ray died in 1998 before any trial could take place.

In 1995, Ray's attorney William Pepper published *Orders to Kill*, in which he asserted that Ray had been set up by a hit team of federal agents. In 1998, CBS's *48 Hours* conducted a blistering attack on Pepper and revealed that his new witness, Jim Green, had been arrested for "possibly running a methamphetamine lab." Green was held for ten days, then charges were dropped, after the CBS team had left town. A longtime criminal with numerous possible connections to government agencies and history as an informant, Green claimed for years that he was part of the assassination plot and had in fact been part of a plan to take out Ray after King was dead. He disputed records that appeared to show he was imprisoned on the day of the assassination.

Many people have had a difficult time accepting Ray's sole involvement in the killing, particularly given that the FBI had been tracking and harassing King since 1955. Believing King to be amoral, a Communist, and a threat to his vision of America, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover had called the civil rights leader "the most notorious liar in the country" and appears to have directed his agents to use any means at their disposal, legal or illegal, to destroy him.

The Lorraine Motel, where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, is now part of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee.

All FBI documents concerning King were sealed in 1977 and will not be made available to the public until 2027.

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KNIGHTS OF THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

Prior to the Civil War, these secret Southerners wanted to extend slavery not just to the rest of America but throughout the hemisphere.

In 1854, wandering Virginian con man George W. L. Bickley founded a secret society, which he called the Knights of the Golden Circle. His goal was nothing short of the creation of a new empire. The Manifest Destiny-inspired entity that he called the Golden Circle would be headquartered in Havana, Cuba, and have a diameter of 2,400 miles. Inside that border, the Golden Circle would be a slaveholding mercantile colossus with a monopoly on cotton, sugar, and tobacco. It would also ensure the continuation of slavery in the Americas. Bickley found many adherents excited by the potential for foreign conquest and to partake in his group's dense lattice of secret rituals, codes, and passwords.

Although Bickley's scheme sounded grandiose, it was a not uncommon desire of Southerners to conquer territory in Central and South America and the Caribbean in order to make them into massive plantations. In the 1850s, proslavery firebrand William Walker unsuccessfully invaded both Mexico and Nicaragua with bands of mercenaries.

A surgeon and officer in the Confederate Army, George W. L. Bickley dreamed of forming a new nation called the Knights of the Golden Circle that would include the southern United States, Cuba, Mexico, Central America, and parts of South America.

The Knights of the Golden Circle garnered a lot of interest but failed in its expansionist goals. A planned invasion of Mexico in 1860 dissipated after Bickley (a serial fabulist) failed to produce the army he had promised. But the group still had an impact. In the run-up to the Civil War, knights scattered throughout the South were instrumental in pushing the region toward secession. Immediately following the war, former knight John Wilkes Booth may have been helped in his plotting first to kidnap and then assassinate President Abraham Lincoln by people connected to the group.

Some believe that the knights never disappeared and still exist as an underground force today. Rumors also persist, fueled in part by the arcane symbols they left scattered throughout the South, about their having buried treasure. In 1934, two boys in Baltimore found 5,000 gold coins (worth over $10 million today) underneath an abandoned house that is believed to have belonged to the knights.

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KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

The mission of two knights so poor that they shared a horse grew into a secret society whose wealth and power rivaled that of the greatest kings of Europe. Tradition says that their majesty and might were wrought from their possession of the Holy Grail.

During Europe's medieval era, the fundamental principle of knighthood was the union of monasticism and chivalry. Before the orders of chivalry, a man could devote himself to religion and become a monk, or he could elect to become a warrior. The founding of the orders of knighthood permitted the vow of religion and the vow of war to be united in a single effort to take back the Holy Land from the Muslims.

The oldest of the religio-chivalric orders is the Knights of Saint John of Jerusalem (also known as the Knights Hospitallers and subsequently as the Knights of Malta and the Knights of Rhodes), founded in 1048, prior to the launching of the First Crusade in 1096. The second of the great orders of knighthood was founded around 1117 by two French knights, Hugues de Payens and Geoffrey of Saint-Omer, who decided to serve as guides and protectors for Christian pilgrims en route to Jerusalem.

When they first began their mission, Hugues and Geoffrey had only one horse between them. In spite of their lack of horseflesh, the two warrior-guides soon gained a reputation for their service to helpless wayfarers. They were joined by seven other knights who admired their principles. Known as the "Poor Soldiers of the Holy City," the nine men bound themselves by the traditional vows of obedience, chastity, and poverty, then added oaths to defend the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem and to protect those pilgrims who journeyed there. Baldwin I, king of Jerusalem, granted the knights quarters on the site of Solomon's temple in Jerusalem. Because of this location they became known as the Knights of the Temple of Solomon, later the Knights of the Red Cross or the Knights Templar.

According to tradition, it was also amidst the ruins of Solomon's Temple that the knights uncovered the holy relics that would transform them from an order devoted to poverty and humility into one of Europe's wealthiest and most powerful organizations. It is said that the Templars unearthed the Holy Grail along with ancient documents proving that Jesus and Mary

Magdalene were husband and wife. An even more esoteric tradition states that the Templars excavated an underground chamber of the temple that contained the head of Jesus, which spoke and prophesied to them.

At the Council of Troyes in 1127, Saint Bernard of Clairvaux drew up a code for the Templars and designed an appropriate uniform for the order, consisting of a white tunic and mantle with a red cross on the left breast. Pope Honorius II gave his seal to the following rules of conduct and discipline for the order in 1128: All knights were required to recite vocal prayers at certain hours; to abstain from meat four days a week; to cease hunting and hawking; to defend with their lives the mysteries of the Christian faith; to observe the seven sacraments of the church, the fourteen articles of faith, and the creeds of the apostles and Athanasius; to uphold the doctrines of the two Testaments, including the interpretations of the church fathers, the unity of God and the trinity of his persons, and the virginity of Mary both before and after the birth of Jesus; to go beyond the seas when called to do so in defense of the cause; to retreat not from the foe unless outnumbered three to one.

In addition to the strict rules of conduct and discipline, humility was one of the Knights Templar's first principles of membership. The helmet of the Templar must bear no crest, his beard should never be cut, his personal behavior should be that of a servant of others, and his tunic should be girt with a linen cord as a symbol that he was bound in service.

There were four classes of members in the Templars—knights, squires, servitors, and priests—each with their individual duties. The presiding officer of the order was called the grand master, and he was assisted by a lieutenant, a steward, a marshal, and a treasurer. The states of Christendom were divided into provinces, and over each was set a grand master. The grand master of Jerusalem was considered the head of the entire brotherhood, which grew in numbers, influence, and wealth to become one of the most powerful organizations in the medieval world. Counts, dukes, princes, and even kings sought to wear the red cross and white mantle of the Templar, an honor recognized throughout Europe. The knights fought tenacious for years to defend the Crusader kingdoms against Muslim counterattack.

In 1139 Pope Innocent II granted the Templars an unprecedented mark of papal approval: the churches of the Templars were exempt from interdicts; their properties and revenues were free from taxation to either crown or Holy Mother Church. The Templars now had the prestige of being triumphant Crusaders. They had the blessing of the pope. They had the gratitude of those whom they had protected on their pilgrimages. Their banks lent large sums of money to European rulers. They had vast estates with mansions that could not be invaded by any civil officer. The Knights of the Temple became a sovereign body, pledging allegiance to no secular ruler. In spiritual matters, the pope was still recognized as supreme, but in all other matters, the grand master of Jerusalem was as independent and as wealthy as the greatest king in Europe.

The Templars now had the prestige of being triumphant Crusaders. They had the blessing of the pope. They had the gratitude of those whom they had protected on their pilgrimages.

There were three divisions of the Templars in the East—Jerusalem, Antioch, and Tripoli. In Europe, there were sixteen provinces—France, Auvergne, Normandy, Aquitaine, Poitou, Provence, England, Germany, Upper and Lower Italy, Apulia, Sicily, Portugal, Castile, León, and Aragon. A majority of the Templars were French, and it was estimated by the middle of the thirteenth century that as many as nine thousand manors were held by the Templars in France.

In 1187, the seat of the Templars was moved from Jerusalem to Antioch after the Templars and the Hospitallers were almost annihilated in the disastrous battle of Tiberias, where the Saracen army led by Saladin, the sultan of Egypt and Syria, thoroughly defeated the Christians and reclaimed Jerusalem for Islam. Two hundred thirty captive knights were beheaded when they refused the Muslims' offer to convert to the religion of the Prophet.

When the Muslims captured Acre in 1291 and overthrew the Christian kingdom, the Templar knights fought until almost every man was killed. The survivors retreated to Cyprus, which the order had purchased a century before from Richard the Lionheart.

Although driven out of the Holy Land, the Knights Templar retained their many estates and their enormous wealth in Europe. But the royals were envious of the order's burgeoning treasury and fumed over the Templars' tax exemption. Rumors began to spread that the order had acquired heretical practices during their time in the East.

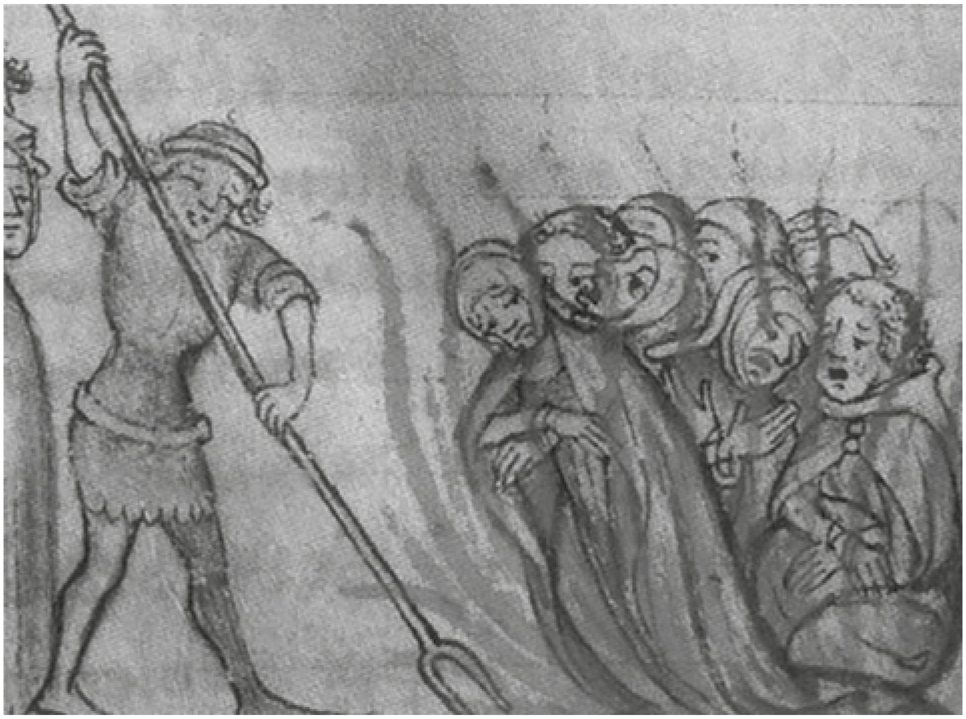
In 1306 King Philip IV of France sought protection for himself and the royal treasury in the Templars' massive fortress in Paris. Unruly mobs were shouting for his death, and he feared that disloyal nobles would loot the nation's wealth. While Philip was under the Templars' protection, he began to understand the incredible wealth that the order had accumulated. When he realized that this was only a portion of their immeasurable riches and that the Templars had forts and estates throughout France, each containing its own deposit of treasure, he was awed.

When Philip once again sat more securely on his throne, he began to consider the Templars as rivals for his kingdom. They had more money and power than he, and they owed their allegiance only to the pope. Philip met with Pope Clement V to seek his counsel on how the order might be exterminated. Although the Templars had enjoyed the blessing of the papacy for decades, the pope admitted that he had been made uneasy by accusations that they had sought to protect their own interests by securing a separate treaty with the Muslims. Clement, however, was reluctant to make any kind of move against the knights.

Philip finally found a chink in the Templars' armor in the person of the mysterious Esquire de Floyran, who claimed to have been a member. Floyran claimed the order had degenerated into a monstrous blood cult that worshipped demons such as Baphomet, the three-headed god of a heretical Muslim sect. Floyran swore he had seen initiates spitting upon crucifixes, participating in vile rites, even sacrificing babies to demons. Armed with de Floyran's sensational accounts, the backing of France's highest church officials, and the endorsement of William of Paris, the Grand Inquisitor, Philip demanded that the pope conduct an investigation into the Knights Templar. Under pressure, Clement gave his approval for a judicial inquiry, and the knights were charged with heresy and immorality.

On the night of October 13, 1307, all of the Templars' castles in France were surrounded by large bodies of men led by priests and nobles. When the unsuspecting knights were ordered to open their gates in the name of the king, they immediately complied. Taken completely by surprise, about nine hundred knights were arrested and all their property and holdings in France seized. When word of the arrests spread, other nobles and priests quickly followed suit and imprisoned the Templars wherever they might be found.

The Templars were accused of infidelity, atheism, heresy, invoking Satan, worshipping demons, desecration of holy objects, uncleanliness, and even of being Muslims. The prosecution was often forced to resort to torturing the prisoners to obtain confessions. In Paris, the Templars' grand master, Jacques de Molay, pleaded the order's innocence. In spite of his personal friendship with de Molay, who was the godfather of his younger son, Philip ordered the grand master and the 140 knights imprisoned with him to be starved, tortured, and kept in filthy dungeons.



A 1384 illustration of Templars being burned to death. The Templars were destroyed by the Church because they had become too wealthy and influential.

The pope hesitated to sanction the extermination of the knights. Philip, however, was determined to see the Templars destroyed and their wealth distributed to the state. For two weeks, the knights imprisoned in Paris suffered the rack, the thumbscrew, the pincers, the branding iron, and fire. Thirty-six died under torture without speaking. The rest confessed to every charge the Inquisition had leveled against them.

A grand council was called in Paris on May 10, 1310, to review the confessions. But Philip's victory was sullied when fifty-four of the knights recanted their confessions and appealed to government and church officials that they had been tortured. They swore that they had remained true to their vows and that they had never practiced any kind of witchcraft or Satanism. Philip silenced their pleas three days later when he ordered all fifty-four burned at the stake in a field behind the alley of Saint Antoine.

In 1312 the pope convened the Council of Venice, during which it was decided that the order should be abolished and its property confiscated. Despite Pope Clement's reserving final judgment concerning the guilt of the Templars, and despite 573 witnesses for their defense, the knights were tortured en masse, then burned at the stake. The landed possessions of the order were transferred to the Hospitallers, and their wealth was distributed to the sovereigns of various states. Everywhere in Christian Europe, except in Portugal, where the Templars assumed the name of the Knights of Christ, the order was suppressed.

In 1314, as he was being burned to death on a scaffold erected for the occasion in front of Notre Dame, de Molay recanted the confession that he gave under torture and proclaimed his innocence to Pope Clement V and King Philip—and he invited them to meet him at heaven's gate. When both dignitaries died soon after de Molay's execution, it seemed to the public at large that the grand master and the Knights Templar had been innocent of the charges of heresy.

In Scotland, the charges against the order were regarded as unproven, and Templars who managed to escape torture and death found safe haven there. Robert the Bruce, Scotland's king, had himself been excommunicated, and he welcomed the Templars' swords alongside those of his men at the battle of Bannockburn on June 24, 1314. Henceforth, Bruce protected the order, and the legendary holy relics of the Templars found their way to Scotland. In 1445 Earl William Sinclair began construction of Rosslyn Chapel, wherein, according to tradition, the sacred objects remain hidden to this day.

On October 25, 2007, the Vatican Secret Archive published *Processus contra Templarios*, which cleared the Knights Templar of the charge of heresy. The book was based on a scrap of parchment discovered in 2001 by Professor Barbara Frale. Amazingly, the 700-year-old document proved to be a record of the trial of the Templars by Pope Clement V and ends with a papal absolution from all heresies leveled at the warrior monks. The document, known as the Chinon parchment, had been placed in the wrong archive in the seventeenth century.

The Knights Templar were subjected to torture and burning at the stake because their accusers sought to expose their initiation ceremony as blasphemous. After listening to the Templar's explanation, Pope Clement agreed that their entrance ritual was not truly an insult to Christ and the Church. However, in order to keep peace with King Phillip, who had ordered the Knights arrested and subjected to the Inquisition, and to avoid a schism in the Church, he dissolved the Order.

Many researchers have doubted that an order as wealthy, militarily skilled, and widespread as the Knights Templar could have been exterminated so swiftly. As a result, stories persist about their having simply gone underground, or refashioned themselves as Freemasons, and continued to influence world events.

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Newspaper editor Horace Greeley applied the "Know-Nothing" label to men he knew were undoubtedly members of the United Americans or the Star-Spangled Banner yet professed to "know nothing."

KNOW-NOTHINGS

In the 1840s and 1850s, secret societies united to form a movement that demanded stricter immigration policies and the restriction of political office to native-born Americans.

Contrary to popular understanding, there never was an official political organization bearing the name Know-Nothing Party. In 1843 the American Republican Party was formed in New York as a xenophobic reaction by native-born Americans toward the large numbers of Irish Catholic immigrants crowding into the cities on the East Coast. As the organization grew in strength, it changed its name to the Native American Party and declared itself a national party at its 1845 convention in Philadelphia. But when hostilities broke out along the Texas border in 1846 and war was declared against Mexico, the Native American Party lost its momentum.

Although no longer a recognized national political party, some members of the Native American group formed secret societies, such as the Order of United Americans and the Order of the Star-Spangled Banner. These societies worked behind the political scenes to ensure that only native-born candidates won state or national offices. When members of older, established political parties attempted to learn more about these secret societies and approached an individual they suspected belonged to such a group, the person being interrogated, true to his pledge, would answer that he knew nothing. Newspaper editor Horace Greeley applied the "Know-Nothing" label to men he knew were undoubtedly members of the United Americans or the Star-Spangled Banner yet professed to "know nothing."

By 1852 the Know-Nothings were gaining strength and forming lodges in nearly every major American city. Many citizens formerly allied with an established political party agreed with the Know-Nothings that there should be greater restrictions on immigration, that the foreign-born should be excluded from voting or from holding public office, and that citizenship would only be granted to immigrants after twenty-one years' residency. By 1853 the Know-Nothings no longer saw any need to belong to secret societies and became a national political party with the official name American Party. By 1855 forty-three representatives of Congress were avowed Know-Nothings, members of the American Party.

The following year, at the peak of its power, the American Party was squelched because of a highly publicized split within its own ranks over the issue of slavery. Former president Millard Fillmore, a Whig who refused to join the Republican Party, accepted the nomination for president as the candidate for the American Party in the election of 1856. Fillmore carried only the state of Maryland, and the party's congressional strength plummeted to twelve representatives. Antislavery Know-Nothings joined the Republican Party, and its southern members carried the proslavery banner to the Democratic Party. By 1859 whatever strength remained in the American Party was felt only in some of the border states.

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KU KLUX KLAN

America's oldest terrorist organization, the Ku Klux Klan, founded in 1865, had nearly died out until Hollywood resurrected it in 1915.

On December 24, 1865, in Pulaski, Tennessee, General Nathan Bedford Forrest and a small band of former Confederate soldiers decided that they had to do something to stop what they saw as an intolerable occupation by the victorious federal government. They were especially incensed by the Freedmen's Bureau, which Congress set up to provide schooling, hospitals and housing for the formerly enslaved peoples freed after the Confederacy's defeat. Forrest and his followers believed something needed to be done to restore the apartheid power structure that had previously ensured Southern blacks would never see themselves as the equals of whites.

The name Ku Klux Klan comes from *kyklos* (Greek for "circle") and the Scots-Gaelic *clan*. Klansmen dressed in white robes to represent the Confederate dead with hoods to protect their anonymity. Some researchers have said that the robes and hoods were an imitation of the Knights Templar.

Forrest was the first grand wizard, and he presided at an 1866 Klan convention held in Nashville. Establishing themselves as the strongarm enforcers of the South's Democratic Party, the Klan set out to curb any attempts at black advancement through educational, electoral, or economic means. They used terror tactics—ranging from public whippings to the burning of schoolhouses to lynching—to strike fear into both blacks and the whites who supported them. Their numbers quickly spread even beyond the South. Between 1868 and 1870, the Klan was linked to over a dozen violent attacks on Chinese workers in California.

A full-fledged Confederate white supremacist, Forrest had been determined to stop blacks from getting the vote. But as the Klan became more powerful and brutal, Forrest appeared to change his mind, growing more appalled at how the group he organized had become synonymous with torture, destruction of private property, and murder. In 1869 Forrest tried to disband the Klan.

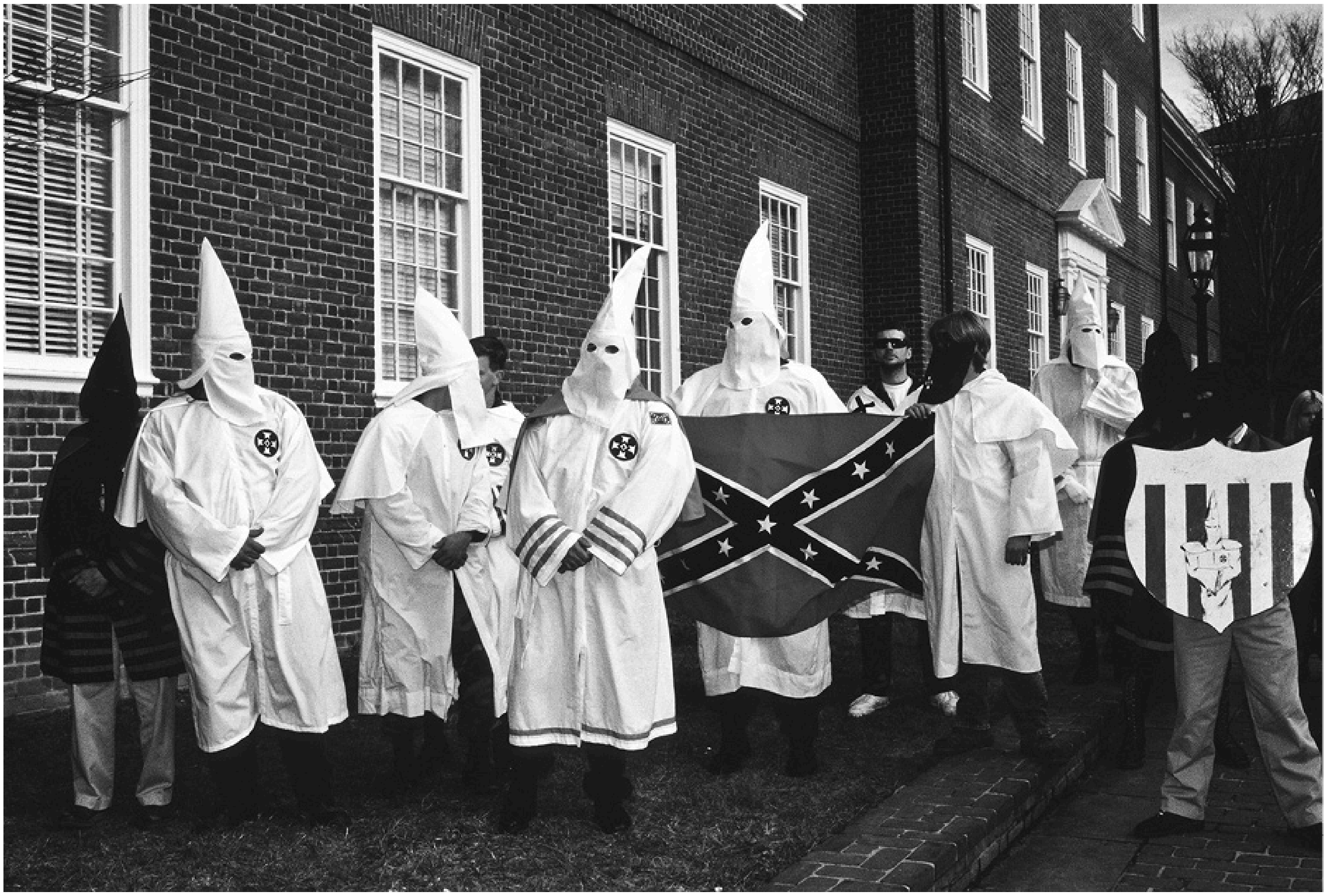
By then, however, the Klan had become a many-headed monster and had established itself in too many locations to be easily controlled, much less halted. By 1870 the Klan had scattered into dozens of individual groups that paid no heed to Forrest's order to abandon violent night raids and the practice of organized fear and intimidation.

In 1871, President Ulysses S. Grant designated the Klan an illegal terrorist group. The authorization and use of federal force virtually eliminated the nightriders. The Klan faded into the shadows. However, by 1876, President Rutherford B. Hayes had ended federal protection for black Southerners and the era known as Reconstruction came to an end. White supremacy and strict segregation laws were firmly established throughout the South by everyday nonhooded whites.

The Klan practically disappeared until 1915 when a preacher named William J. Simmons was influenced by Thomas Dixon's book *The Clansman* (1905) and D. W. Griffith's film adaptation, *The Birth of a Nation* (1915), and re-formed the White Brotherhood. Since then, the Klan's membership has fluctuated and fractured.

KU KLUX KLAN TIMELINE

1918: After World War I, the Klan turns its attention to immigrants, singling out Jews, Roman Catholics, socialists and communists, and other "foreigners."



The Ku Klux Klan has made a comeback in recent decades thanks to the rise of other white supremacist movements and conservative politics in the United States.

1920: The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) defies the Klan by holding its annual convention in Atlanta, at that time a stronghold of the Klan.

1922: Hiram W. Evans becomes the imperial wizard of the Klan. Under his leadership the Klan grows rapidly and elects state officials in Texas, Oklahoma, Indiana, Oregon, and Maine.

1925: Klan membership reaches 4 million. They are nearly impervious to arrest, much less conviction, in small southern communities.

1944: The organization is disbanded again after a number of Klan leaders are arrested for corruption and murder and the nation weathers first a Great Depression and World War II.

1950s: The Klan is revived when the civil rights movement heads south. Robert Shelton organizes the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and nightriders once again terrorize those blacks who want to vote. Lynching is still used as a method of controlling the black population.

1963: Klan organizer Bob Jones boosts the group's North Carolina chapter to over 10,000 members. The group's popularity saw it briefly being courted by politicians eager for its support.

September 15, 1963: A bomb explodes under the steps of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, injuring twenty-three and killing four girls—three fourteen-year-olds and one eleven-year-old.

October 8, 1963: Robert Chambliss, a member of the Klan identified as the man who placed the Birmingham, church bomb, is found not guilty of murder, fined one hundred dollars, and sentenced to six months in jail for possessing a box of 122 sticks of dynamite without a permit.

Summer 1964: The Klan instigates the firebombing of thirty black homes, thirty-seven black churches, and the beatings of over eighty civil rights volunteers. James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner are murdered by the Klan on June 12 in Mississippi.

March 21, 1981: Henry Hays, son of the second highest-ranked Klansman in Alabama, and James Knowles abduct nineteen-year-old Michael Donald and lynch him. Local police claim Donald's death is the result of drug deal gone bad.

June-December 1983: Knowles is found guilty and sentenced to life and Hays is found guilty and sentenced to death for the murder of Michael Donald.

February 1987: Morris Dees and Joseph J. Levin of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) support Beulah Mae Donald, who launches a civil suit against the Klan for the lynching death of her son Michael. The all-white jury finds the Klan responsible and orders it to pay damages of $7 million, resulting in the Klan's turning over all its assets, including the national headquarters in Tuscaloosa.

June 6, 1997: Henry Hays is the first white man executed for a murder of an African American since 1913.

May 17, 2000: The FBI announces that a splinter group of the Klan, the Cahaba Boys (Robert Chambliss, Herman Cash, Thomas Blanton, and Frank Cherry), carried out the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing and the murders of Denise McNair, Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley.

May 2002: Seventy-one-year-old Frank Cherry of the Cahaba Boys is sentenced to life in prison.

June 22, 2005: Forty-one years to the day that civil rights workers Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner disappeared, former Klansman Ray Killen, eighty, is convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to twenty years in prison for each killing.

November 10, 2015: Former Klan member Frazier Glen Miller sentenced to death for fatally shooting three people at a Jewish Community Center and the Shalom Retirement Center in Kansas City.

Today the name Ku Klux Klan has become public domain, and dozens of groups use all or part of the name in their titles.

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MARK LANE

After the death of the first prominent critic of the Warren Commission, it turned out that the spotter of conspiracy theories may have been involved in one of his own.

When the Warren Commission report on the assassination of John F. Kennedy was published in 1964, it found that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone, and his killing by Jack Ruby was also a singular act of passion. This 10-month investigation and 26-volume report was convincing: prepublication, 29 percent of Americans believed that Oswald was a lone assassin, but afterward, that number was 87 percent. But things began to change in 1966 with the publication of Mark Lane's bombshell book *Rush to Judgment*.

A civil rights activist and lawyer who at one point represented Oswald's mother, Lane was among the first prominent critics to poke holes in what he saw as the Warren Commission's sloppily researched conclusions, arguing that at least one additional gunman must have been present and that Ruby was too well connected with the Dallas police not to have had some involvement. Over the years, Lane became one of the most influential voices in the JFK conspiracy theory community, publishing additional books about the assassination that implicated the CIA among other powerful interests in the crime. He also took on clients who he argued were the victims of nefarious government conspiracies such as Martin Luther King Jr.'s convicted killer James Earl Ray and the cult leader Jim Jones.

The year after Lane's death in 2016, the release of classified CIA documents put a new spin on his life's work. The documents indicated that starting in the late 1960s, Lane had been an intelligence source for the KGB. One Soviet informant connected to Lane said that the Soviet leadership was also predisposed to believe in the conspiracy theories, with the KGB concluding that Kennedy had been assassinated by the military–industrial complex, a belief then energetically promoted in America by Lane himself.

A civil rights activist and attorney, Mark Lane criticized the Warren Commission's investigation of JFK's murder in his book Rush to Judgment.

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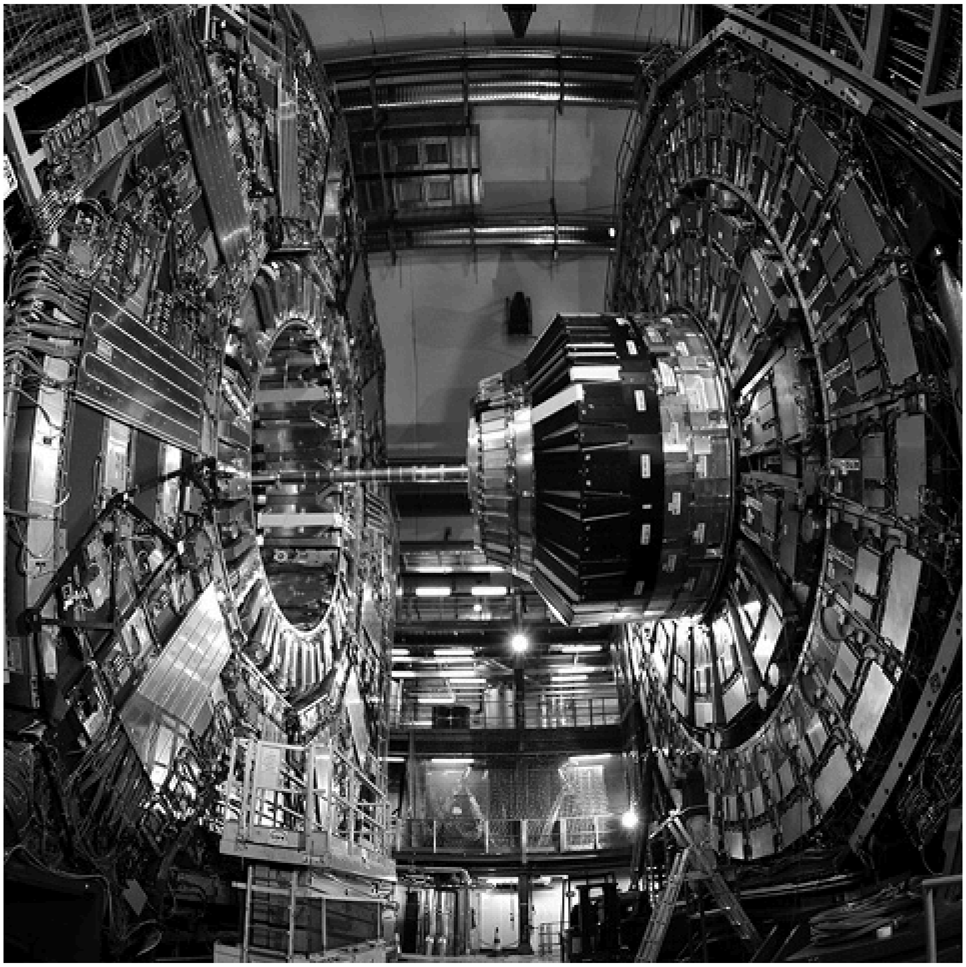
LARGE HADRON COLLIDER

When nuclear physicists built this massive machine for smashing subatomic particles together to examine the building blocks of the universe, some people were concerned that they might, in fact, destroy the very thing they were studying.

In 2008, the scientific community was thrilled about the impending opening of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). Operated by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), the LHC is a 17-mile underground circle of superconducting magnets designed to simultaneously accelerate subatomic particles so that they crash into each other and scientists can study the results.



There was considerable concern about what might happen when the powerful Large Hadron Collider went online. Some feared it could even destroy the planet. So far, that has not come to pass.

More than a few skeptics, though, were deeply concerned by nuclear scientists creating such a massive research machine. They worried that in addition to proving the existence of such things as the Higgs boson (aka the "God particle"), which tend to make sense only to physicists, the LHC was, in fact, a danger to Earth and possibly the entire universe.

Before the LHC opened, panic occurred in some circles about the potential for disaster ranging from causing earthquakes to generating new timelines to the creation of a destructive black hole. The latter case was actually conceded by CERN, which noted with impressive calm the possibility of "microscopic black holes" being generated during their experiments but believed "they would disintegrate rapidly, in around 10–27 seconds."

More diabolical possibilities were raised by conspiracy theorists who wanted to know why the art collection at CERN included a statue of the Hindu god Shiva (aka "the Destroyer"). The official explanation (a gift from India to celebrate the start of its association with CERN) was deemed unlikely by some, especially after a 2016 video (later determined to be faked) appeared to show a ritual human sacrifice being enacted by robed individuals around the statue.

The opening of the LHC was delayed by a number of seemingly mundane construction setbacks. However, to some, these delays were, in fact, part of an elaborate campaign waged by people in the future who were traveling back in time to stop the LHC from ever beginning. Physicists Bech Nielsen and Masao Ninomiya published a series of papers arguing just this possibility, terming it "reverse chronological causation."

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LYNDON H. LAROUCHE JR.

Perpetual candidate for the U.S. presidency, far-out conspiracy theorist, Lyndon H. LaRouche remains one of the most controversial figures on the international scene.

Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr., who died in 2019, spent decades as one the most controversial figures on the international scene. To his followers, his ideology was the only one that could work in today's world and he possesses economic theories that will turn America around. To his detractors, LaRouche was a mad conspiracist. In his book *Conspiracy*, Daniel Pipes states that the principal theme that fueled LaRouche's many organizations, publications, and presidential campaigns is that "a single oligarchic conspiracy has been bedeviling mankind since the dawn of history. Its headquarters were first in Babylon, then in Rome, Venice, and now London." LaRouche's critics believed that his network was little more than a money-grubbing and influence-peddling machine that preyed on frightened donors and leveraged intelligence gathered by his surprisingly widespread and well-placed operatives.

LaRouche was convicted on federal conspiracy charges in December 1988 and spent five years in prison (where at one point his cellmate was televangelist Jim Bakker). His followers condemned the trial as a "political show-trial," comparable to the case of France's Captain Alfred Dreyfus. On September 2, 1994, testifying before a commission investigating the same case, former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clark commented that the case represented "a broader range of deliberate cunning and systematic misconduct over a longer period of time utilizing the power of the Federal government than any other prosecution by the U.S. government in my time or to my knowledge."

For years LaRouche's critics denounced him as an anti-Semitic, eccentric conspiracy theorist whose "cult" of followers borders on preaching fascist philosophy. As proof, they point to his many dramatic claims, which included:

- The Queen of England is "the number one danger to humanity."
- The Beatles were designed and shaped by the British Psychological Warfare Division.

Lyndon LaRouche was a political activist and founder of the National Caucus of Labor Committees. He believed that the world is being ruled and ruined by Aristotelian elitists who wish to establish oligarchic rule over the masses.

- The International Monetary Fund created HIV/AIDS.
- Henry Kissinger was "an agent of the British foreign service" and maybe an assassin for hire.
- The Freemasons established the Jewish organization B'nai B'rith as a pro-slavery spy ring that provided intelligence to the South before the Civil War.

LaRouche also believed that the "sovereign cognitive powers of the individual human mind" are validated by discoveries of physical principles that are "identical in nature with those responsible for the composition of metaphor in great compositions" in classical forms of poetry, music, and art. Science and art are both subjective, rather than objective, and new principles of science and new ideas are born as resolutions of metaphor. These, LaRouche explained, were the lead considerations in his cofounding of the scientific Fusion Energy Foundation during the mid-1970s and his support for his wife Helga Zepp-LaRouche's founding of the International Club of Life and the international Schiller Institute, devoted to the defense of the rights of all humanity to progress—materially, morally, and intellectually.

Originally a socialist, LaRouche began in the 1970s to adopt an anti-communist ideology that won him support from the right-wing fringe. His *Executive Intelligence Review* was a popular read for some Beltway conservatives in the 1980s. Matthew Lyons, coauthor with Chip Berlet of *Right-Wing Populism in America: Too Close for Comfort*, told Joe Ireland of the Portland State University *Vanguard* that since the early 1990s the "LaRouchites" have "promoted a kind of faked progressivism. They've opposed both Gulf Wars, attacked the death penalty, and defended social welfare programs and civil rights. But their underlying political philosophy is based on conspiracy theories, not a critique of systemic oppression."

Up until his death, LaRouche continued railing against a byzantine conspiracy that he thought was comprised of (among others) Zionists, Jesuits, Freemasons, the Rockefeller family, the Rothschilds, environmentalists, drug traffickers, fundamentalist Muslims, orthodox Christians, and the B'nai B'rith. Though few people followed the LaRouchian conspiracy theory as a whole (his obsession with the Queen remains an outlier), his well-oiled messaging machine spread fragments of his ideas far and wide and his acolytes were for years frequently found in surprisingly senior positions throughout the U.S. political establishment.

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LAVENDER MAFIA

Some believe that networks of powerful, gay people wield true power in places as different as Hollywood and the Catholic Church.

One of the most disturbing conspiracies in modern times has been not just the continued revelations of sexual abuse committed by Catholic priests and laypeople but the organized attempts by the Church to protect the accused, pressure accusers into silence, and stonewall investigations. Numerous instances of these conspiracies have been reported on by investigative journalists, frequently for mainstream publications.

Most of those reports focus on the predatory nature of the crimes themselves and the attempts of the Church's hierarchy to avoid exposure in order to limit embarrassment and financial or criminal responsibility. However, some theorists have posited that the cases of abuse (which have been often, but by no means exclusively, committed against a victim of the same sex as the perpetrator) have happened because of a sinister cabal of gay men in positions of power throughout the Church who threaten to blackmail and denounce anybody who uncovers their secret.

The existence of a so-called "Lavender Mafia," which is trying to secretly undermine the Church's values through a liberalizing agenda and wants to keep heterosexual priests out of power, finds credence among conservative (and often homophobic) Catholic conspiracy theorists. Their concerns appear to be an offshoot of long-running worries held by religious traditionalists that networks of gays were pushing a "homosexual agenda," which was a well-orchestrated campaign not just to gain social acceptance but to actively "recruit" heterosexuals into becoming gay.

Regarding the Catholic Church, some sources, including Italian news outlets, have pointed to the possible existence in the Vatican of what they termed the "Velvet Mafia," a ring of highly placed gay clergymen who engaged in all manner of scandalous sexual behavior (prostitutes, sex parties) as well as financial corruption connected to the Vatican Bank, a common target in many conspiracy theories. Some people believe that Pope Benedict decided to resign as pope on the same day that he received a report about the Velvet Mafia.

"Velvet Mafia," "Lavender Mafia," "Gay Mafia," and even "Homintern" (a play on Lenin's Comintern, or Communist International) are all terms that have also been used at various times with various degrees of seriousness to describe different possible conspiracies apart from the Catholic Church. In 1952, Rep. Katherine St. George (D-NY) drew on R. G. Waldeck's article "Homosexual International" to argue on the floor of Congress that a "sinister, mysterious, and efficient" worldwide conspiracy of gays had aligned with Communists to subvert free society.

A significant part of Sen. Joseph McCarthy's anti-Communist witch hunt in the 1950s (aided by similar efforts by J. Edgar Hoover's FBI) was focused on purging gays from government work. One argument, later disproven, was that gays were a security threat due to their being supposedly more vulnerable to blackmail. It was estimated that during the 1940s and 1950s, about 5,000 gay government workers lost their jobs due to homophobic conspiracy theories.

In the 1970s, references were made to a clique of gay men connected to Studio 54 who wielded vast power. More recently, some celebrities have claimed that well-placed and powerful homosexuals in Hollywood have kept them from work.

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LEAGUE OF THE SOUTH

No one will ever be able to accuse the League of the South of lacking self-definition or a definite goal.

Without any equivocation, the League of the South declares that its ultimate goal is "a free and independent Southern republic." It is the intention of the League of the South to:

- Form active chapters in every county in every southern state.
- Encourage individuals and families to secede from the "corrupting influence" of "post-Christian" American culture.
- Withdraw support of and allegiance to a regime that has imperiled the future.
- Withdraw from the public educational system and to establish their own private academies.
- Resurrect the southern cultural base.
- Seek only political leaders who are truly willing to serve others.

By joining the League of the South (LOS), according to their Web site, people will have placed themselves "among a group of men and women who are not content to sit by and allow their land, liberty, and culture be destroyed an alien regime and ideology."

The LOS (first called the Southern League) was founded in 1994 by J. Michael Hill and forty like-minded individuals. Hill felt that of all the many facets, minorities, and ethnic groups within the U.S. population, southerners were the most denigrated by the dominant political structure in the North. At first, Hill's threat of seceding from the Union was largely rhetorical, a last resort if Yankees didn't start showing more respect to the South.

J. Michael Hill (center) is the leader of the League of the South, a white-supremacist, Christian radical group that aims to form an independent republic.

Within a few years, membership in the league had grown to ten thousand, and Hill's threat to secede from the Union was no longer a rhetorical attention-getting device. The league believed that society is made up of a hierarchy of various groups that should not necessarily have the same rights as others. Hill foresaw a southern Christian theocracy in which public school prayer and all Christian religious observances would be mandatory. Racial intermarriage would never be allowed. People other than white Christians would still be permitted in Hill's fantasy world, as long as they acknowledged the superiority of the Anglo-Celtic culture. Hill and other league members have organized great numbers of Confederate flag rallies and events, and they've shown their political clout by orchestrating campaigns to remove officeholders who oppose the flying of the stars and bars from public places.

LOS members have been quoted as saying that slavery in the antebellum South was a good thing. David Cooksey, a charter member of LOS, has suggested that the South needs a "new type" of Ku Klux Klan.

The LOS abandoned one of the fundamental tenets of American democracy, that all men are created equal, and states that the "European majority" will tolerate "productive and sympathetic" members of other ethnic groups, but only on terms that the LOS dictates. As Hill has phrased it, the South envisioned by the LOS will be one where "the interest of the core population of Anglo-Celts is protected from the ravages of so-called multiculturalism and diversity."

During the 2010s, the LOS turned more explicitly towards neo-Nazi ideology and violent rhetoric, starting a militia group they called the Southern Defense Force. The LOS was one of the key groups behind the pro-Confederate "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Virginia in 2017. They faced recruiting problems afterward and the group was one of several found guilty of conspiracy charges connected to the violent rally.

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JOHN LENNON, ASSASSINATION OF

A voice inside Mark David Chapman's head told him to "do it, do it, do it," and in the next few moments, one of the world's most famous rock stars lay dying.

Semi-retired from rock stardom, having spent the previous several years with his wife Yoko Ono and infant son in virtual solitude, former Beatle John Lennon was gunned down in front of his apartment building in New York City on December 8, 1980. Ironically, Lennon had autographed his new album, *Double Fantasy*, for his 25-year-old murderer, Mark David Chapman when he and Ono had first left the Dakota apartments that evening.

After the shooting, the Dakota's doorman shouted incredulously at Chapman, asking him if he knew what he had done. Chapman, having put away the .38 revolver that had slammed four flat-tipped bullets into Lennon's back, now idly flipped through the pages of a paperback edition of *Catcher in the Rye*. He responded to the doorman's angry query by calmly answering that he had just shot John Lennon.

In August 1966, when the Beatles were in Chicago, an American teen magazine picked up on a March interview with Lennon in the *London Evening Standard* in which he remarked on how strange it was that the Beatles seemed to have more influence on young people than anything else, including Jesus. A firestorm of protest from the Bible Belt, conservative and right-wing preachers, and the Vatican was directed toward the Beatles, Lennon in particular. He apologized for the misunderstanding, but it was apparent to the Fab Four that the press was now prepared to pillory them for any word misspoken, and they soon stopped touring.

In the late 1960s Lennon became an outspoken opponent of the Vietnam War. To protest of Britain's involvement in Nigeria and British support of the U.S. role in Vietnam, he returned the Member of the Order of the British Empire that he had received from Queen Elizabeth II. Following their honeymoon after their 1969 marriage, Lennon and Ono recorded "Give Peace a Chance," which quickly became the peace movement's international anthem.

After the Lennons moved to New York City in the early 1970s, President Richard Nixon and other right-wing politicians, such as Senator Strom Thurmond and Attorney General John Mitchell, viewed John Lennon as the Great Devil of all subversive activity. He was a popular, outspoken individual who they believed could start riots and rebellions. J. Edgar Hoover agreed with their fears, and Lennon's FBI file bore large, handwritten, block-lettered motto: all extremists should be considered dangerous. Government agents were assigned to get enough on the Lennons so they could be deported.

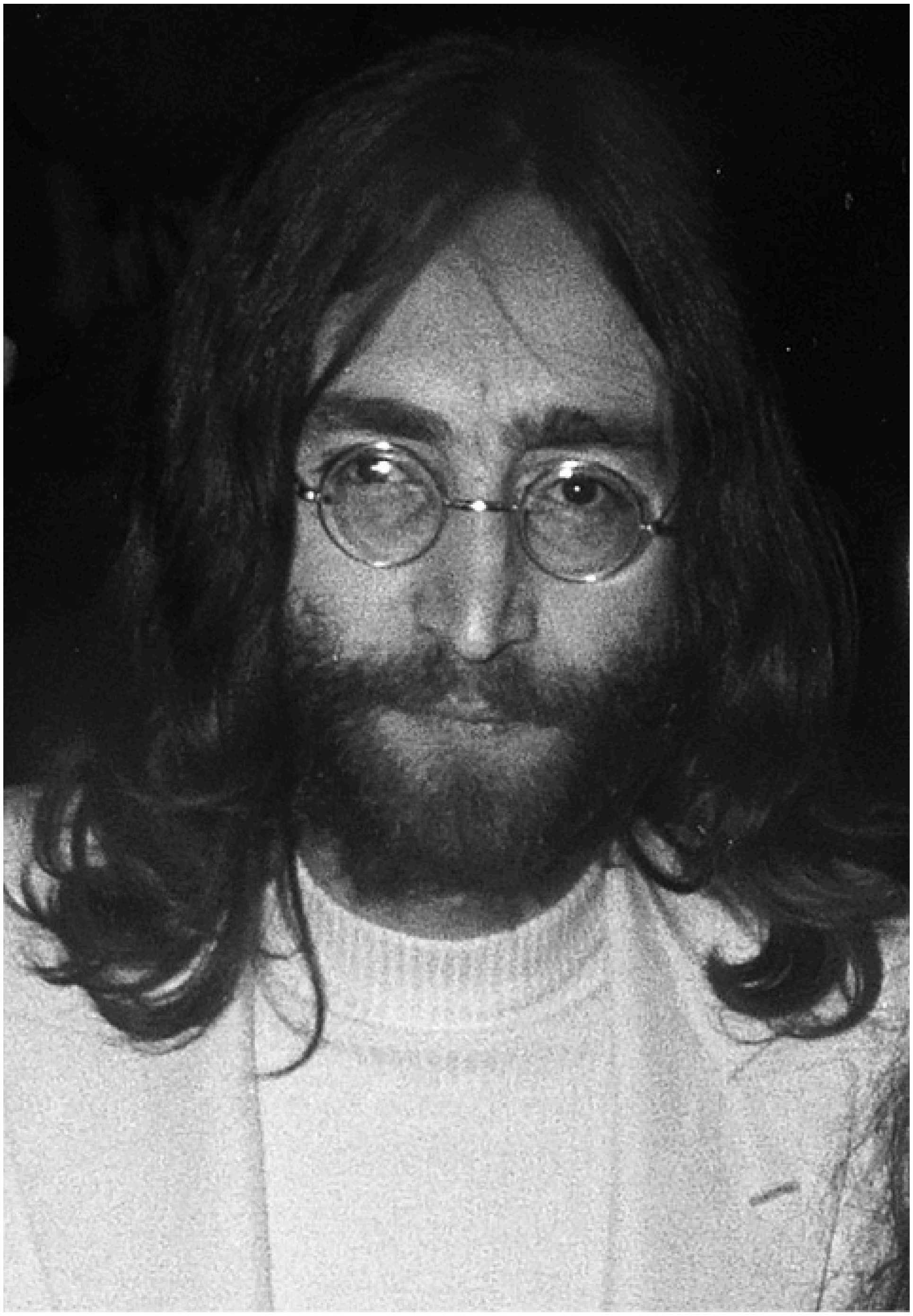
By 1976 Lennon and Ono had resolved their strife with the U.S. immigration officials, Yoko had given birth to their first child, and John had decided to retire from the music business. Then, curious to see if he could still write songs, he picked up his guitar again in 1980.

After the shooting, as Lennon lay semiconscious and bleeding to death, Chapman was preternaturally calm, almost serene in his demeanor. Later he said that he felt nothing at the time of the shooting, no emotion, no anger, nothing but silence in the brain. But he said that just before he pulled the trigger, a voice inside his head said over and over again, "do it, do it, do it."

Conspiracy theorists were quick to claim that Paul McCartney, Lennon's chief rival in the Beatles, had hired an assassin to put an end to their competition. Some even named Ono and blamed her for nursing jealousies for the times Lennon had strayed from their marriage vows. There were charges that Lennon, who himself believed in a number of conspiracy theories, had actually been working for the CIA

The official verdict, though, was just another crazy "lone gunman." Like Oswald. Like Sirhan.

British lawyer-journalist Fenton Bresler thought that Chapman seemed just a little too much like Sirhan, particularly his unnatural calm manner and his saying that that a voice in his head kept telling him to do it. Bresler theorized in his book *Who Killed John Lennon?* that Chapman was yet another of the programmed and brainwashed assassins spreading chaos and tragedy since 1963. He argued that Chapman's apparent obsession with J.D. Salinger's novel *The Catcher in the Rye* was possibly implanted, that the novel might have been the mechanism that the CIA had used to program like a Manchurian Candidate. (Supporting such a theory is the fact that when John Hinckley shot President Ronald Reagan three months later, he was also carrying a copy of *The Catcher in the Rye*.)



The brilliant musician, composer, and former Beatle John Lennon was senselessly gunned down by Mark David Chapman, who, some say, was brainwashed to murder the singer.

Though later afflicted with serious mental problems that required hospitalization, when younger, Chapman had not been known as a socially minded, likeable individual. His family pointed out that he had been a sensitive young man and born-again Christian who was a camp counselor and good with kids. Bresler that Chapman had been brainwashed as a result of his strong connections to the YMCA, which the CIA was accused of using as a front.

Chapman's attorney was astonished when, after he had spent six months diligently preparing to defend his client on an insanity plea, Chapman suddenly decided to plead guilty. A small voice inside his cell had spoken to him, Chapman explained, and told him to admit to the murder.

Chapman was later imprisoned at Attica State Prison in upstate New York and denied parole on numerous occasions.

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LEOPARD SOCIETY

This centuries-old cult in West Africa sacrificed its victims, drank their blood, and ate their flesh in a belief that such acts would grant them supernatural powers.

In the spiritual beliefs of many African tribes, the leopard is a powerful totem animal that guides the spirits of the dead to rest. For many centuries there has existed a leopard cult in West Africa, particularly in Nigeria and Sierra Leone, whose members kill as does the leopard, by slashing, gashing, and mauling their human prey with steel claws and knives. Once a victim has been chosen and the date and time of the killing agreed upon, the executioner, known as the Bati Yeli, is selected. The Bati Yeli wears the ritual leopard mask and a leopard skin robe. Preferably, the human sacrifice is performed at one of the leopard cult's jungle shrines. After the cult has killed their victim, they drink the blood and eat the flesh. The cultists believe that a magical elixir known as *borfima*, which they brew from their victim's intestines, grants them superhuman powers and enables them to transform themselves into leopards.

The first serious outbreak of leopard-cult murders occurred shortly after World War I in Sierra Leone and Nigeria. The region's white administrators captured and executed a number of the cult's members and felt that the nasty business had been suppressed. In actual fact, the leopard men simply went underground, continuing to perform ritual murders sporadically every year over the next two decades.

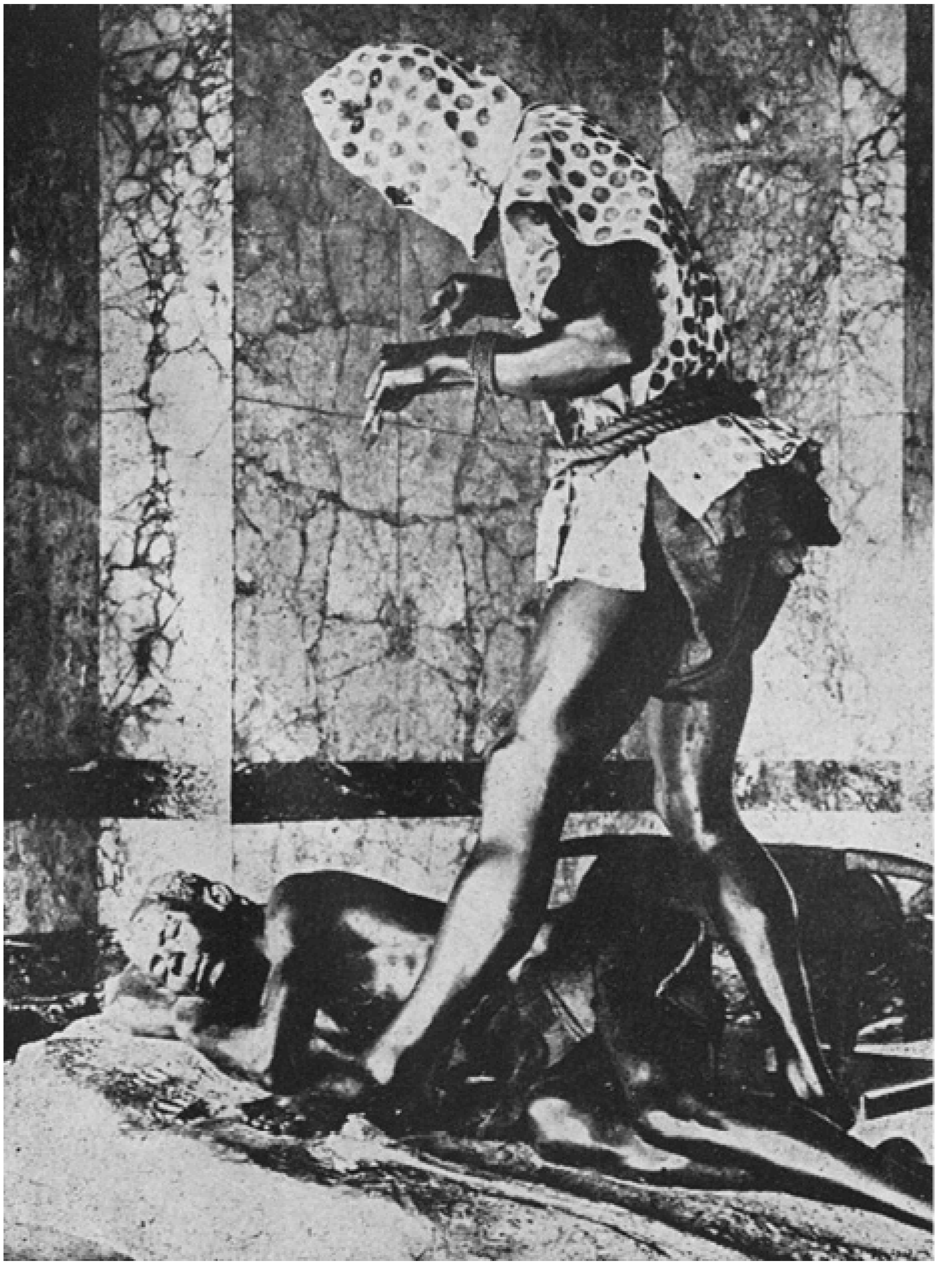
In 1946 there were forty-eight cases of murder and attempted murder committed by the leopard cult. Very much like the Mau Mau in Kenya, the leopard men had begun directing many of their attacks against whites, seemingly as demonstration to the native population that the cult had no fear of the police or of the white rulers. The trend continued during the first seven months of 1947, when there were forty-three known ritual killings performed by the cult.

Early in 1947, a relatively new colonial district officer in eastern Nigeria named Terry Wilson discovered that the leopard men had begun operating in his jurisdiction, claiming mainly young women as their victims. When Wilson raided the house of a local chief named Nagogo, his men found a leopard mask, a leopard skin robe, and a steel claw. Acting on a tip from an informer, Wilson ordered his police officers to dig near the chief's house, whereupon they found the remains of thirteen victims. The chief was put in prison to await trial, and Wilson set out to put an end to the leopard men's reign of terror.

Although Wilson received two hundred additional police officers as reinforcements, the leopard men became increasingly bold in their nocturnal attacks. One night they defied the police by sacrificing a female victim inside the police compound and got away without being seen. The inhabitants of the region lost all confidence in the police and their ability to stop the powerful leopard men. Even some of Wilson's men began to believe that the cultists might truly have the ability to shape-shift into leopards and fade unseen into the shadows.

By mid-August 1947 Wilson knew his men were becoming unnerved, so he decided to attempt to set a trap for the leopard men. On the path to a village where several slayings had taken place, Wilson sent one of his best men, posing as the son of a native woman. The two walked side by side toward the village while Wilson and a dozen other officers concealed themselves in the bushes at the side of the path.

Suddenly a tall man in leopard robes charged the couple, swinging a large club. The young police officer struggled with the leopard man, but before Wilson and the other men could arrive on the scene, the cultist had smashed the officer's skull with the club and fled into the bushes.



A 1934 photo published in Le Monde colonial illustré shows a Leopard man preparing to attack a sleeping victim.

On a hunch, Wilson told his men to leave the officer's body in the bushes beside the path. Dismissing the others, Wilson hid in the brush.

Around midnight, just as Wilson was about to return to the compound, a nightmarish figure crawling on all fours emerged from the jungle, pounced on the young officer's corpse, and began clawing at his face like a leopard. But rather than claws raking the body, Wilson caught the glint of a two-pronged steel claw in the moonlight. The killer had returned to complete the cult ritual of sacrifice. Wilson advanced on the leopard man, and the robed murderer snarled as if he were truly a big cat. When he came at him with the two-pronged claw, Wilson shot him in the chest.

Wilson had provided the people with proof that the leopard men were not supernatural beings. The members of the cult did not have magic that could make them impervious to *bullets. They were, after all, men of flesh and blood—savage, bestial, and vicious—but men, nonetheless. Once word had spread that the district officer had killed one of the leopard men, witnesses began to come forward in great numbers with clues to the identity of cult members and the possible location of a secret jungle shrine.*

During February 1948 seventy-three initiated members of the cult were arrested and sent to prison. Eventually thirty-nine of them were sentenced to death and hanged in Abak Prison, their executions witnessed by a number of local tribal chiefs who could testify to their villages that the leopard men were not immortal.

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LIBERTY LOBBY

The founder of this conservative group believes that Hitler and the Nazis should have won World War II.

Since its founding in 1958, Liberty Lobby pushed to be considered as a respectable conservative group, but was frequently condemned for its avowed anti-Semitism, racism, and dissemination of hate literature through its weekly tabloid, the *Spotlight*. In the opinion of founder Willis Carto (who died in 2015), the defeat of the Nazi regime in 1945 was a tragedy for Europe and the United States and only occurred because of the machinations of secret societies of Jews.

Liberty Lobby celebrates freedom for extreme right-wing and conservative groups and denies it for Jews and people of color. Under the pretense of patriotism, Carto's goal for the United States was the rehabilitation of Hitler's National Socialism in America. An anti-Semite and racist, Carto supported the apartheid governments of South Africa and Zimbabwe. His propaganda efforts in the United States concentrate on spreading fear about Blacks.

In 1978 Carto founded the *Institute for Historical Review*, which became one of the world's most prominent Holocaust-denial publications. In 1984 Carto organized the Populist Party to serve as the Liberty Lobby's political arm. Former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke was the Populist Party's candidate for president in 1988. Carto eventually split with both the Populist Party and the *Institute for Historical Review* but went on to start another Holocaust denial publication.

After spreading Holocaust revisionism and anti-Semitic conspiracy theories for decades, the Liberty Lobby ceased functioning but Carto's viewpoints carry on in conspiracy-minded white supremacist publications like the *American Free Press*.

Having a female Jesus who writes new doomsday scriptures and followers who abduct other Christians and hold them for grueling days-long brainwashing

sessions has angered many of China’s more orthodox Christians.

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LIGHTNING FROM THE EAST

Jesus is alive and well, living in China as a woman and promising a fast-approaching Judgment Day.

An apocalyptic cult named Lightning from the East (also known as Eastern Lightning or the Church of Almighty God) emerged in China in the early 1990s and gained popularity among Christians, who still mostly had to worship secretly. Recalling earlier Chinese Christian cults like the revolutionary nineteenth century Taipings, they immediately sparked controversy with their claim that Jesus had returned in the form of a young woman whose identity they tried to keep secret. The female Jesus—whom they call Lightning Deng and is believed to be Yang Xiangbin, the mistress of the group’s founder Zhao Weishan—is supposedly prophesied in Matthew 24:27: “For as the lightning comes out of the east and shines even unto the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.” Claiming to be that “lightning,” Deng warns of a fast-approaching Day of Judgment. She explains that she has been born again in China because it is the “Great Red Dragon” referred to in the book of Revelation.

Lightning from the East has attracted many enemies. Having a female Jesus who writes new doomsday scriptures and followers who abduct other Christians and hold them for grueling days-long brainwashing sessions has angered many of China’s more orthodox Christians. The group has also run afoul of the Chinese government, which has banned the group and launched mass arrests. Stories of cult kidnappings and even murders—in 2014, a Lightning member murdered a woman at a McDonald’s supposedly because “she was an evil spirit”—are promoted through state media and used to turn public opinion against them. However, it is likely that the group has infiltrated state-approved churches.

Lightning from the East expanded its recruitment to North American, spreading their literature in New York City and San Francisco.

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN, ASSASSINATION OF

Even today, the assassination of Abraham Lincoln remains one of America's greatest unsolved mysteries.

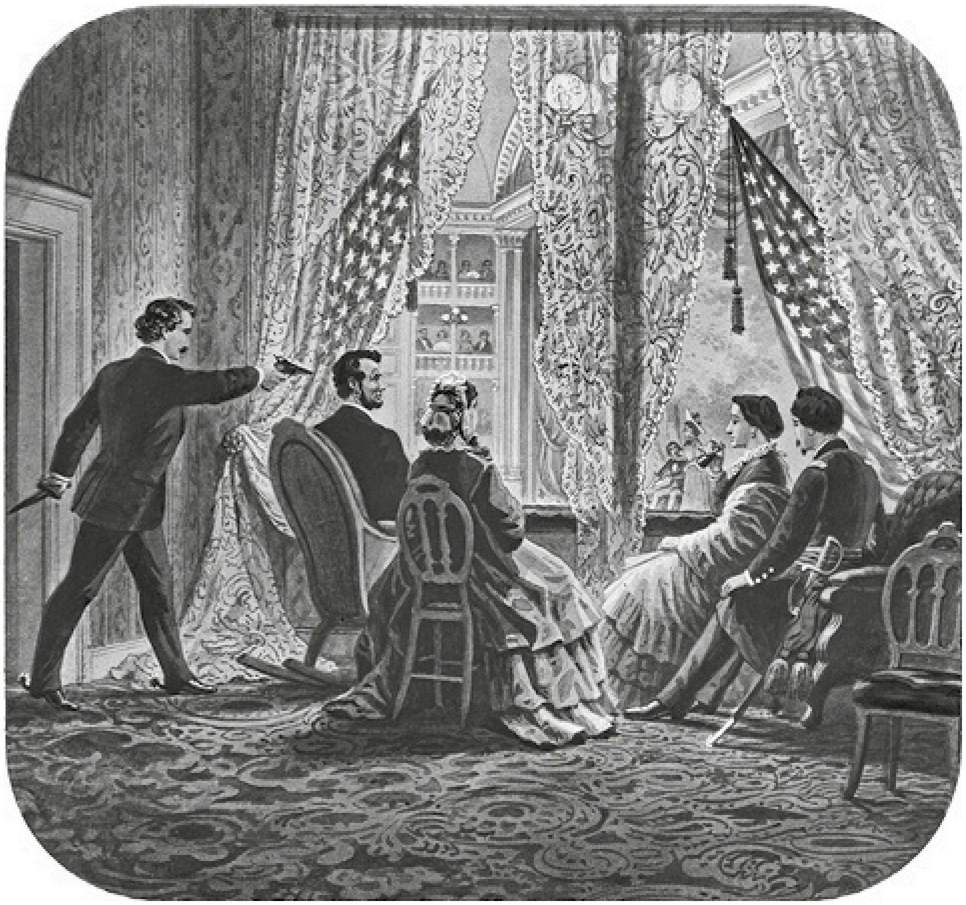
The known story of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln can be summarized like this: John Wilkes Booth came from a family of famous actors. His father, Junius Brutus Booth, was a noted Shakespearean actor, as was John's brother, Edwin, who became known as the "Prince of Players." John had also performed on the stage throughout the country, but his wild and erratic behavior and outspoken political prejudices prevented him from achieving a solid career in the theater. He was an outspoken advocate of the Confederate cause during the Civil War and launched into hateful tirades against Lincoln at the slightest opportunity.

In the late summer of 1864 Booth developed plans to kidnap Lincoln to Richmond, Virginia, the capital of the Confederacy, and hold the President in return for Southern prisoners of war. By January 1865 he had gathered a small band of conspirators, including Samuel Arnold, Michael O'Laughlen, John Surratt, Lewis Powell (a.k.a. Paine or Payne), George Atzerodt, and David Herold. Using Mary Surratt's Washington, D.C. boardinghouse for their meetings, the group set the kidnapping date for March 17, when Lincoln would be attending a function at a hospital on the outskirts of Washington. Their elaborate planning was for naught when Lincoln suddenly altered his itinerary and decided to remain in the capital.

On April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. There was no longer any point in Booth's prisoner exchange plan. The South had capitulated.

Two days later, Booth was in the crowd listening to Lincoln speak outside the White House and was infuriated when he heard the president suggest that certain freed slaves should be given the right to vote. In Booth's opinion, it was bad enough that Lincoln planned to free the slaves, but to him it was against God's will that Blacks should be free to read and to vote. He summoned his co-conspirators and angrily told them that he now planned to assassinate Lincoln.

Booth found that his companions' hatred for the president matched his own. They all agreed to be a part of the plan to kill Lincoln and key members of his administration. When they learned that Lincoln and General Grant would be attending Ford's Theater on April 14, they unanimously decided that would be the night to carry out their plot.



Famous actor and Confederate sympathizer John Wilkes Booth shot President Lincoln in the back of the head as the president watched a play at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.

As the hour drew near, they met one last time. Although he had learned that General Grant would not be attending the play after all, Booth still planned to assassinate Lincoln at the theater. Atzerodt was assigned to kill Vice President Andrew Johnson in his quarters at the Kirkwood House while Powell and Herold would murder Secretary of State William Seward. All the murders were to take place at 10:15 that night.

After fortifying himself with a drink at nearby saloon, Booth entered the front of Ford's Theater around 10:07 and began to make his way toward the box where the Lincolns were sitting with Clara Harris and Henry Rathbone. Audience laughter at the comedy *Our American Cousin* helped to conceal the sound of Booth's opening the door to the box. Lincoln's bodyguard, John Parker of the Metropolitan Police Force, had left his post, so Booth faced no resistance as he withdrew his single-shot derringer and fired point-blank at the back of the president's head. When Rathbone rose to struggle with him, Booth stabbed him in the arm with a hunting knife.

Whether he sensed he would be trapped if he attempted to retreat by way of the stairs or out of some misguided sense of the dramatic, Booth jumped the approximately eleven feet to the stage and snapped the fibula in his left leg just above the ankle. Brandishing his knife and shouting, "Sic semper tyrannis!" ("Thus always to tyrants"), Booth limped across the stage in front of over a thousand shocked audience members and made his way to the horse awaiting him by the back door.

Lincoln never regained consciousness and died the next morning. Powell managed to stab Secretary of State Seward but did not kill him. Atzerodt didn't attempt to assassinate Vice President Johnson. Herold decided to leave the capital as quickly as possible. Booth had his broken leg set and splinted by Dr. Samuel Mudd, then, in the company of Herold, headed for refuge in the South.

Early on the morning of April 26, federal authorities caught up with them at Garrett's farm near Port Royal, Virginia. Herold surrendered, but Booth took cover in a barn and refused to come out. The barn was torched, and Sergeant Boston Corbett shot the assassin as the flames surrounded him.

Several members of Congress and Mary Todd Lincoln herself were certain that Johnson knew of the conspiracy and did nothing to stop it.

Federal agents had already rounded up all but one of the other conspirators. Mrs. Surratt, Powell, Atzerodt, and Herold were all hanged on July 7, 1865. Mudd, O'Laughlen, and Arnold were given life terms. Ned Spangler, a stagehand at Ford's, was sentenced to six years for helping Booth escape. John Surratt fled to Canada, then Europe, and was finally apprehended in Egypt. Brought back to face trial in 1867, he was set free after the jury deadlocked. O'Laughlen died in prison that same year. In 1869 President Andrew Johnson pardoned Mudd, Arnold, and Spangler.

Although the remains recovered from the ashes of the barn at Garrett's farm were taken back to Washington and identified as those of John Wilkes Booth, some historians insist that the body was never *positively* identified as that of the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln.

With such a detailed factual record, people can believe that we do not have the dilemma one faces with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. In the case of Lincoln, the assassin, his co-conspirators, and their motive are known. We know everything there is to know about who killed President Lincoln. Or do we?

Among the many theories behind the killing of Lincoln are the following:

VICE PRESIDENT ANDREW JOHNSON ARRANGED FOR THE ASSASSINATION

Several members of Congress and Mary Todd Lincoln herself were certain that Johnson knew of the conspiracy and did nothing to stop it. It is known that seven hours before he assassinated the president, John Wilkes Booth stopped by the Kirkwood House to see Johnson. When he was informed that neither Johnson nor his private secretary was presently in the hotel, Booth left a note that read, "Don't wish to disturb you. Are you at home?"

Some might conclude that Booth did not trust George Atzerodt to kill Johnson, so he decided to do it himself. But what about the plan to carry out all the murders at approximately 10:15? If Booth had killed the vice president at three o'clock that afternoon, the security around the president would have been tripled—and Lincoln would most assuredly not have attended the play that night.

In *Right or Wrong, God Judge Me: The Writings of John Wilkes Booth*, edited by John Rhodehamel and Louise Taper, it is revealed that Booth met Johnson in Nashville in February 1864, when the actor was appearing at the recently opened Wood's Theater. Even more damning, in *Civil War Echoes* (1907) Hamilton Howard claims that in 1862, while Johnson was the military governor of Tennessee, he and Booth had kept two sisters as their shared mistresses and were frequently seen in each other's company.

Johnson, born in Raleigh, North Carolina in 1808, had been elected governor of Tennessee in 1853 and to the U.S. Senate in 1856, and was the only southern senator who had refused to join the Confederacy. However, Johnson made it clear that he did not support the abolition of slavery. No one who heard one of his rants questioned his belief that slaves should be kept in subjugation. When Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, Johnson managed to wring a promise from the president that while the proclamation would apply to all the slaves held by those states in rebellion, Tennessee would be exempt.

Lincoln's first choice for his running mate in the 1864 election had been radical Republican Hannibal Hamlin. Then he asked war hero General Benjamin Butler to join him on the slate. However, the consensus in the Republican Party was that Hamlin and Butler's views would be unpopular with voters who had previously supported the Democratic Party in the North and that Johnson would be a better choice to demonstrate that the southern states were still part of the Union.

Lincoln had had little to do with his vice president after Johnson disgraced himself on Inauguration Day by being drunk when he made his speech to Congress. Slurring his words and making numerous inappropriate comments, Johnson had to be helped to his seat by Hamlin. With the memory of this embarrassment clearly in mind, Mary Todd Lincoln felt certain that the "miserable inebriate Johnson" had something to do with her husband's death.

Johnson was cleared of any involvement in Lincoln's death by a special Congressional Assassination Committee formed specifically to investigate him. Regardless of the Committee's declaration of Johnson's innocence, many Americans regarded him with suspicion for decades to come.

LINCOLN WAS ASSASSINATED AS THE RESULT OF A CONFEDERATE PLOT

It seemed logical in 1865 to assume that John Wilkes Booth was acting within a much larger circle of Confederate conspirators who would consider Lincoln a legitimate wartime target for assassination.

A plan to blow up the White House with Lincoln and his cabinet inside gained some impetus after the South was shaken by the letters found in the pocket of the youngest colonel in the Union army. In the winter of 1864, Union brigadier general Hugh Judson Kilpatrick conceived a plan to raid Richmond and free more than 1,500 Union officers and 10,000 enlisted men held prisoner there. President Lincoln personally endorsed the raid because of the pressure he received daily from people protesting Confederate treatment of the Union soldiers in the swampy prison camp. On February 28, 1864, Kilpatrick led 3,600 cavalry troopers across the Rapidan River, riding south toward Richmond. The following day, twenty-one-year-old Colonel Ulric Dahlgren, who had lost his right leg at Gettysburg, took 460 men to the west to cross the James River, intending to circle undetected to Richmond's lightly defended southern portals. Kilpatrick would engage the main force of Confederates while Dahlgren freed the prisoners.

Colonel Ulric Dahlgren of the Union Army was killed while leading an attack on Richmond, Virginia. Confederates found papers on his body detailing a plot to kill Confederate president Jefferson Davis that had been approved by President Lincoln.

Unfortunately for the Union prisoners, the James River was too high to cross at the appointed place, so Dahlgren continued toward Richmond on the wrong side of the river and was confronted by southern militiamen. When Kilpatrick, a leader so devoid of skill that his men had nicknamed him "Kill-Cavalry," met resistance at Richmond's outer defenses, he ordered a hasty retreat. Left to flounder on their own without the main body of cavalry, Dahlgren's men headed back toward Union lines in a freezing rain. On March 2, Dahlgren was killed in a Confederate ambush.

The story of the ill-fated campaign wouldn't rate more than a footnote in the annals of the Civil War if what has come to be known as the Dahlgren Papers had not been retrieved from the young colonel's inside coat pocket. Captain Edward Halbach skimmed over the orders outlining the details of the failed raid—then he became appalled and could hardly believe his eyes when he read that the actual objective of the raid was to burn Richmond to the ground and to kill President Jefferson Davis and his entire cabinet.

Halbach immediately brought the incendiary papers to General Robert E. Lee, who had them copied and sent to Maj. Gen. George Meade, the Union commander. Although the Union protested that the Confederacy had doctored the documents, it didn't take long for Confederate intelligence operatives to learn that Lincoln himself had endorsed the raid.

In this conspiracy theory of Lincoln's assassination, Booth becomes a rebel agent working under orders of Judah Benjamin, the Confederate secretary of state, in plots first to bomb the White House (which failed when Thomas F. Harney, the scheme's explosives expert, was captured on April 10), then to assassinate Lincoln, which succeeded on April 14, 1865. The Confederate Plot hypothesis has been given more credence in recent decades. A grand Confederate conspiracy is detailed by William A. Tidwell, James O. Hall, and David Winfred Gaddy in their book *Come Retribution: The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Lincoln* (1988). Tidwell expands the evidence in his 1995 work *April '65: Confederate Covert Action in the American Civil War*.

THE ROTHSCHILDS AND INTERNATIONAL BANKERS ARRANGED LINCOLN'S DEATH

In this conspiracy scenario, John Wilkes Booth was the hired gun for the powerful British bankers, the Rothschilds. According to those who believe this assassination theory, the Rothschilds had offered loans to the Lincoln administration at very high interest, assuming that the Union had no choice other than to accept their outrageous terms. But Lincoln supposedly refused the Rothschilds' offer and tried to acquire the necessary funds elsewhere. Although his refusal only stung the Rothschilds' pride and greed, the true reason for their planning his assassination was their knowledge that Lincoln's policies indicated a mild reconstruction of the South after the war, one that would encourage a resumption of agriculture rather than industry. Additional postwar policies likely under Lincoln would have destroyed the Rothschilds' commodity speculations. With Lincoln out of the way, the Rothschilds planned to exploit the weaknesses of the United States and take over its economy. Additional speculation, which also played into common anti-Semitic tropes, had it that Confederate Secretary of State Judah Benjamin, who was Jewish, had connections to the Rothschilds and helped engineer the plot.

LINCOLN WAS ASSASSINATED BY THE JESUITS

In 1856 in Urbana, Illinois, Lincoln defended Charles Chiniquy, a rebellious priest, against charges of slander brought by the friends of Bishop O'Regan of Chicago, with whom Chiniquy had a strong disagreement. Lincoln brought about a compromise settlement that the priest interpreted as a major victory over the Roman Catholic Church. As time passed, though, Chiniquy feared that the Jesuits resented Lincoln for this triumph over the church and might one day attempt to even the score. With Irish immigrants known for often being Democratic and against the war, a number of Northerners blamed the church or simply Catholics in general for the assassination.

In *Fifty Years in the Church of Rome* (1886), Chiniquy claimed that Jefferson Davis had offered a million dollars to anyone who would kill Lincoln. According to Chiniquy, he visited Lincoln in the White House on numerous occasions and tried to warn him about the Catholic Church's antagonism. Later, Chiniquy learned that the Jesuits trained John Wilkes Booth to become their tool of assassination. In 1906 Chiniquy swore that Lincoln had been assassinated by the Jesuits of Rome.

In 1897 Thomas M. Harris, a member of the 1865 military commission, wrote *Rome's Responsibility for the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*. The accusations against the Catholic Church for the murder have not dissipated with time. Emmett McLoughlin's *An Inquiry into the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln* (1963) claimed that Pope Pius IX may have been the instigator of the plot to kill Lincoln: "On one side were dictatorship, slavery, secession, monarchy, European imperialism, Jesuit chicanery, and a Church-dominated assault on the Monroe Doctrine, all of which found spiritual leadership in the one person: Pope Pius IX. On the other side were freedom, emancipation, Freemasonry, democracy, Latin American struggle against foreign domination, all embodied in the one person: Abraham Lincoln."

Later, Chiniquy learned that the Jesuits trained John Wilkes Booth to become their tool of assassination. In 1906 Chiniquy swore that Lincoln had been assassinated by the Jesuits of Rome.

OTHER ENIGMAS ABOUT THE LINCOLN ASSASSINATION

- Mary Todd Lincoln went mad after that terrible Good Friday night in Ford's Theater and was confined in an asylum for some time. Although eventually released, she never fully recovered from the shock.
- Major Henry Rathbone, wounded by Booth's knife as he attempted to halt the assassin, married Clara Harris, the other occupant of the fatal theater box. A few years later, he went mad, attempted to kill Clara and their children, and spent the rest of his life restrained as a violent maniac.
- Boston Corbett, who received praise as the man who shot John Wilkes Booth, went mad and was confined to an asylum.
- Secretary of War Edwin Stanton was also under suspicion as a member of the conspiracy to assassinate Lincoln. He immediately began a movement to impeach the new president Andrew Johnson because of his suspected role in the assassination. Johnson informed Stanton that his resignation as secretary of war was accepted and had him removed from office by force of arms. Not long after he left office, Stanton was found dead—according to rumors, by his own hand.

It would appear that the mystery of the Lincoln assassination, like that of the murder of JFK, will never die.

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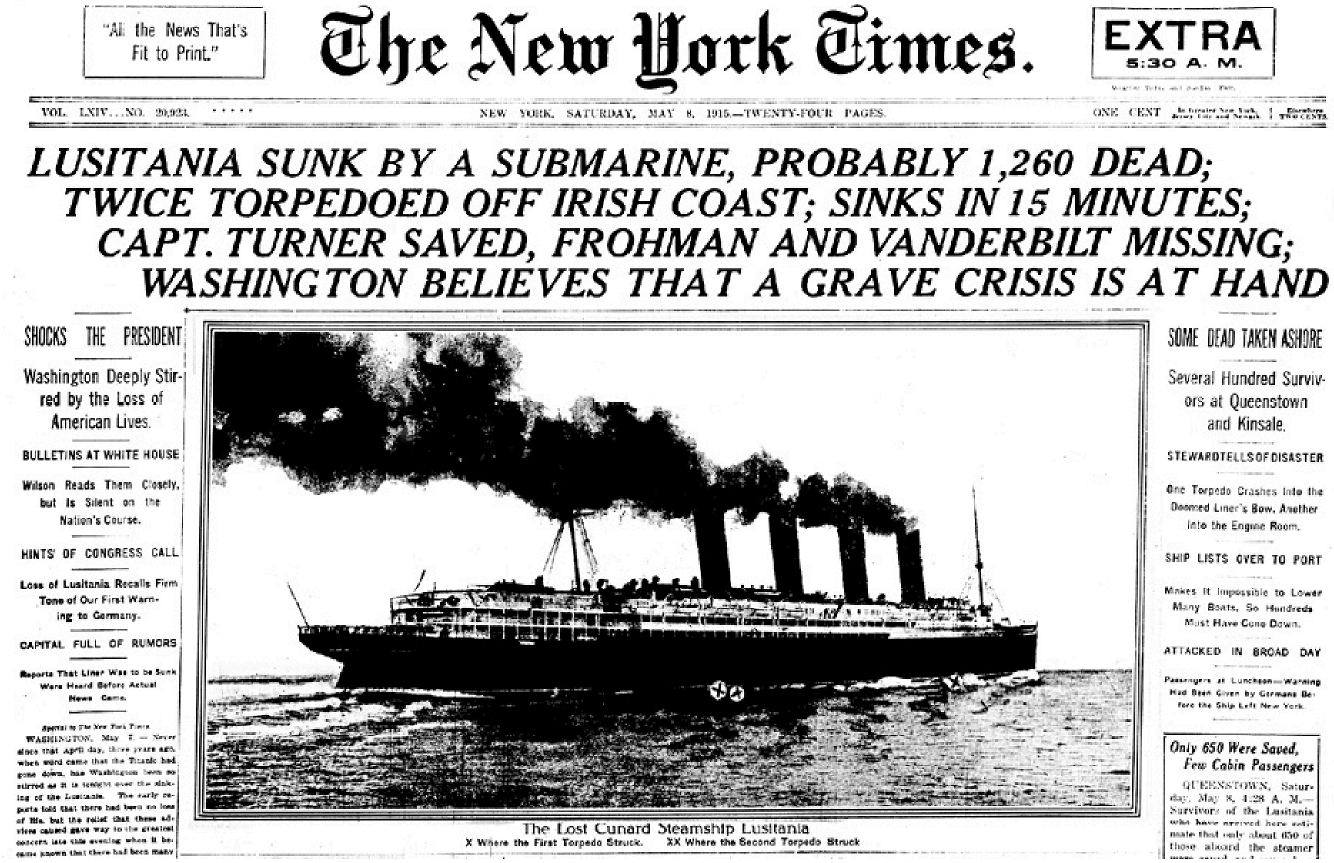
RMS *LUSITANIA*

Some historians still insist that the nearly 1,200 lives lost aboard the RMS Lusitania were sacrificed in an effort to embroil the United States in World War I.

The *Lusitania* was an ocean liner of the British Cunard Steamship Line that was torpedoed by a German U-boat on May 7, 1915, within sight of the southern coast of Ireland. The sinking of a passenger ship and the loss of 1,195 lives was instrumental in causing the United States to declare war on Germany and its allies. For over ninety years, the question has been argued whether Winston Churchill, as Lord of the British Admiralty, manipulated events to arrange for the liner's sinking in order to create an incident that would convince the United States to participate in the conflict against Germany.

The *Lusitania* and her sister ship, the *Mauretania*, were considerably smaller and less luxurious than the *Olympic* and *Britannic* of the rival White Star Line, but they were much faster and enabled Cunard to provide a weekly transatlantic departure schedule with just two vessels. When the *Lusitania* sank, it was her two hundred and second crossing of the Atlantic.

Shortly after World War I began, the British established a blockade of Germany that caused widespread hunger and limited raw materials for the war industry. To break the blockade, Germany unleashed its feared U-boats. As a passenger vessel, the *Lusitania* was supposed to be immune from attack.



"All the News That's Fit to Print."

The New York Times.

EXTRA
5:30 A. M.

VOL. LXIV...NO. 20,923. NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1915.—TWENTY-FOUR PAGES. ONE CENT

LUSITANIA SUNK BY A SUBMARINE, PROBABLY 1,260 DEAD; TWICE TORPEDOED OFF IRISH COAST; SINKS IN 15 MINUTES; CAPT. TURNER SAVED, FROHMAN AND VANDERBILT MISSING; WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT A GRAVE CRISIS IS AT HAND

SHOCKS THE PRESIDENT

Washington Deeply Stirred by the Loss of American Lives.

BULLETINS AT WHITE HOUSE

Wilson Reads Them Closely, but Is Silent on the Nation's Course.

HINTS OF CONGRESS CALL

Loss of Lusitania Recalls Firm Tone of Our First Warning to Germany.

CAPITAL FULL OF RUMORS

Reports That Liner Was to be Sunk Were Heard Before Actual News Came.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, May 7. — Never since that April day, three years ago, when word came that the Titanic had gone down, has Washington been so stirred as it is tonight over the sinking of the Lusitania. The early reports told that there had been no loss of life, but the relief that these advices caused gave way to the greatest concern late this evening when it became known that there had been many

The Lost Cunard Steamship Lusitania

X Where the First Torpedo Struck. XX Where the Second Torpedo Struck

SOME DEAD TAKEN ASHORE

Several Hundred Survivors at Queenstown and Kinsale.

STEWARD TELLS OF DISASTER

One Torpedo Crashes Into the Doomed Liner's Bow, Another Into the Engine Room.

SHIP LISTS OVER TO PORT

Makes It Impossible to Lower Many Boats, So Hundreds Must Have Gone Down.

ATTACKED IN BROAD DAY

Passengers at Luncheon—Warning Had Been Given by Germans Before the Ship Left New York.

Only 650 Were Saved, Few Cabin Passengers

QUEENSTOWN, Saturday, May 8, 4:28 A. M.—Survivors of the Lusitania who have arrived here estimate that only about 650 of those aboard the steamer

The New York Times front page headline for May 8, 1915, breaking the news about the sinking of the Lusitania and massive loss of innocent lives.

However, German intelligence had suspected the Cunard Line of carrying contraband munitions. The German embassy in the United States issued a public warning to Great Britain-bound travelers that the "zone of war" included the waters adjacent to the British Isles. Vessels flying the British flag were "liable to destruction in those waters," and passengers who chose to travel on the ships of Great Britain or its allies must "do so at their own risk." It was later learned that some of the wealthiest and most influential passengers had been warned that a U-boat attack was likely against the *Lusitania*.

Captain Walther Schweiger, commander of submarine *U-20*, released one torpedo and saw it strike the *Lusitania* and trigger a second violent explosion. Upon seeing the second explosion, Schweiger believed he was justified in torpedoing the passenger vessel, for it appeared to be carrying munitions under assumed cargo designations. The *Lusitania* rolled over and sank in about eighteen minutes. Rescuers from Queenstown, Ireland, managed to save 734 from the cold seawater.

The Germans had guessed correctly, for the *Lusitania* carried in its hold millions of rounds of rifle ammunition, 1,250 cases of shrapnel shells, and forty-six tons of aluminum powder for the Woolrich Arsenal. The British and American governments accused the U-boat of having launched a second torpedo at the sinking passenger ship, but the Germans steadfastly denied doing so, claiming the munitions on board had caused the second explosion.

Conspiracy theorists believe that the British Admiralty, under Churchill's direction, was well aware that the German U-boat command had issued a warning to all passenger ships. The Admiralty was also informed that the *U-20* was responsible for sinking two ships in recent days was still lurking in the *Lusitania*'s path off the southern coast of Ireland. In spite of this knowledge, the Admiralty issued no special warnings to the *Lusitania*, offered no escort to port, and did not send any destroyers to search for the German submarine. It seems apparent to some researchers that there was a conspiracy to place the *Lusitania* in jeopardy in order to incite the Americans to enter the war.

However, U.S. isolationist policies continued to maintain their hold on Congress until February 1917, when the German admiral Alfred von Tirpitz announced that U-boats would begin attacking all shipping in the North Atlantic, regardless of national or political allegiance. On February 3 the U.S. broke off diplomatic relations with Germany. On that same day a U-boat sunk the U.S. liner *Housatonic* off the coast of Sicily. On March 18, German submarines sank three U.S.-registered vessels, the *City of Memphis*, the *Vigilante*, and the *Illinois*. On April 2 President Woodrow Wilson argued that the "world must be safe for democracy," and on April 6 Congress approved a declaration of war against Germany.

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Conspiracy
Secret Society
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USS *MAINE*

For over a hundred years the outraged cry of "Remember the Maine!" has echoed in the halls of American history. But even today people can't agree on who or what sank the battleship.

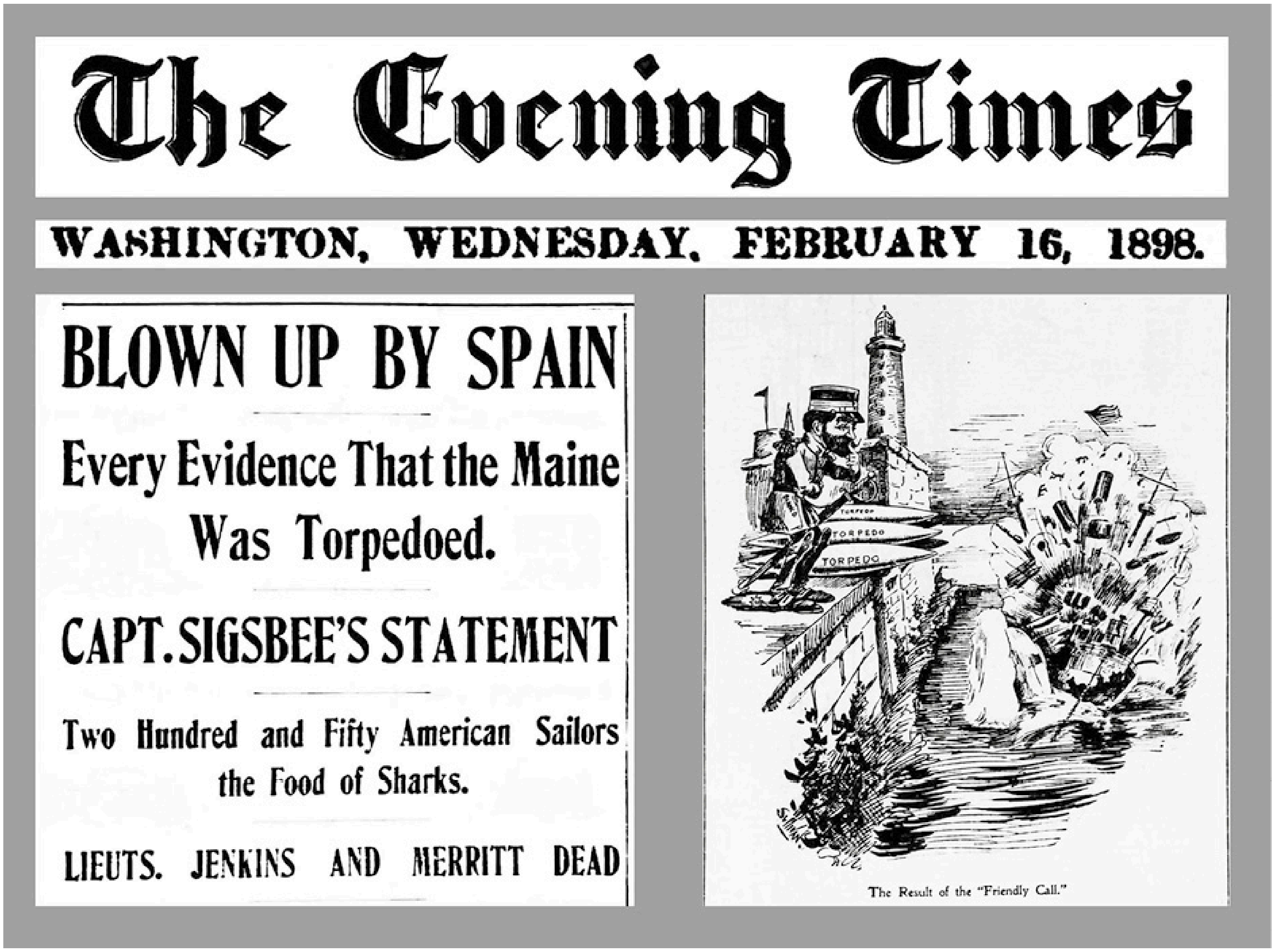
When the USS *Maine* blew up in Havana harbor on the evening of February 15, 1898, most of the battleship's crew were sleeping or relaxing in the enlisted men's quarters in the forward part of the ship. Later investigation disclosed that five tons of powder charges for the battleship's six and ten-inch guns exploded, substantially obliterating the forward third of the ship and sending the remaining wreckage quickly to the bottom of the harbor. Two hundred sixty men lost their lives within minutes of the blast, and another six died later from injuries. Captain Charles Sigsbee and most of the officers of the vessel survived the disaster because their quarters were in the rear portion of the battleship.

The United States had been in sympathetic support of the Cubans in their struggle for freedom from Spain ever since the first insurrection began in 1868. On October 31, 1873, the Spanish captured the ship *Virginius*, bringing aid and guns to the embattled Cuban revolutionaries, and executed most of the crew, including many American citizens. A declaration of war with Spain had been imminent ever since the *Virginius* incident, and popular sentiment in the United States to go to war was steadily fueled by lurid accounts in the "yellow press" of horrible atrocities against the Cubans by the Spanish. When the second rebellion began in April 1895, Spain sent General Valeriano Weyler y Nicolau, soon to be known as "the Butcher," to quell the disturbances. Stories about death and starvation in Cuba soon saturated American newspapers.

Pressure had been placed on both presidents Grover Cleveland and William McKinley to declare war on Spain, but both men had preferred to employ diplomacy. In 1897 Spain promised limited autonomy for Cuba, but the U.S. government was well aware that the revolutionaries would settle for nothing less than total independence. After riots broke out in Cuba in January 1898, President McKinley sent the USS *Maine* to be on hand if Americans on the island needed protection.

The battleship arrived at Havana on January 25, 1898. Although suspicious of America's true motives, the Spanish authorities allowed the ship to enter the harbor. Captain Sigsbee, attuned to any potential of misstep on a sensitive mission, did not allow any of his enlisted men to go on shore. Then, on February 15, the *Maine* was destroyed in one horrendous explosion.

Spanish officials and the crew of the civilian steamer *City of Washington* were quickly at hand to rescue the survivors and look after the wounded. The genuine solicitude of the Spanish authorities allayed Sigsbee's initial suspicions of a hostile action against the *Maine*, and his first telegram to the U.S. Navy Department urged suspension of public opinion until a suitable inquiry had been made.


The Evening Times

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1898.

BLOWN UP BY SPAIN

Every Evidence That the Maine Was Torpedoed.

CAPT. SIGSBEE'S STATEMENT

Two Hundred and Fifty American Sailors the Food of Sharks.

LIEUTS. JENKINS AND MERRITT DEAD

TORPEDO
TORPEDO
TORPEDO

The Result of the "Friendly Call."

The Washington, D.C., Evening Times story suggested the Maine was sunk by a torpedo and that the explosion was not accidental.

The Navy's four-week inquiry, held in Havana, concluded from the condition of the submerged wreckage that a mine had been detonated under the *Maine*. The board did not make accusations as to who might have placed the mine, but the American public had already judged the Spanish as guilty for killing 266 Americans, and they reacted with outrage and cries of "Remember the Maine!"

President McKinley continued his efforts for a diplomatic settlement between Spain and Cuba but was finally pressured into ordering a blockade of Cuba on April 21. With diplomacy at an impasse, Spain declared war on the United States on April 23. Congress was ready with its own declaration of war on April 25 and made it retroactive to April 21. The Spanish-American War lasted only five months, but it signaled the emergence of the United States as a world power.

For over a hundred years, conspiracy theorists have argued that warmongers in the United States sabotaged the *Maine* to force the nation to declare war on Spain. The possibility that someone on board the battleship might have ignited the powder charges was investigated by a Navy Department inquiry in 1911. There were solid arguments presented that a mine external to the *Maine* caused the blast; there was also evidence that spontaneous combustion of coal in the bunker next to the powder magazine caused the explosion.

In 1976 U.S. Navy Admiral Hyman Rickover published the results of an investigation that concluded the explosion was the result of a coal bunker fire. A number of historians doubted this theory, still maintaining that the blast was caused by sabotage. In 1998 the National Geographic Society explored the wreck and decided that based on a structural analysis, the tragedy could have been caused by the ignition of volatile coal dust in a bunker.

At this late date we will probably never know the truth of what happened that February night in Havana harbor in 1898, but we can be certain that the controversy will linger on.

According to the documents leaked to Shandera, the Majestic-12 (or MJ-12) group consisted of many prominent military, government, and scientific figures.

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MAJESTIC-12

In 1987 three UFO investigators announced that they had proof of a secret group within the government that had conspired to keep the truth about extraterrestrial contact from the public.

The documentary filmmaker Jamie Shandera claimed that in December 1984 he had received two rolls of undeveloped 35mm film in the mail. Once he developed the film, he discovered what appeared to be a briefing report to President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower from a group of twelve prestigious and top-secret investigators who worked under the code name Operation Majestic-12. The document described details of the recovery, analysis, and official cover-up of the 1947 UFO crash outside of Roswell, New Mexico.

Within the report was a description of the four "humanlike beings" found near the wreckage of what had been determined to be a crashed extraterrestrial spacecraft. The secret analysis of the beings acknowledged their humanlike appearance but concluded that "the biological and evolutionary processes responsible for their development has apparently been quite different from that observed or postulated in Homo sapiens." According to these documents, all four entities were dead, their corpses mutilated by desert scavengers and badly decomposed.

From what Shandera could ascertain, some unknown source had leaked the documents to him just a few weeks after the death of the last member of the "Majestic-12" group. To help him develop a more complete analysis of the papers that had somehow been delivered into his hands, Shandera enlisted the assistance of prominent UFO researchers William Moore and Stanton Friedman.

On June 14, 1987, at the 24th Annual National UFO Conference in Burbank, California, Shandera, Friedman, and Moore made public their investigations into what they purported to be documentary proof of a government cover-up of UFOs that began in 1947. According to the documents leaked to Shandera, the Majestic-12 (or MJ-12) group consisted of many prominent military, government, and scientific figures.

Upon seeing the list of MJ-12's alleged personnel, UFO researchers agreed that if a UFO had crashed and been recovered in Roswell in 1947, this was the kind of panel that could have accomplished a thorough investigation of the craft. All of these individuals had been at the top in their respective areas of expertise during the late 1940s and had the added benefit of high-level government experience.

The more skeptical investigators agreed that "Document A," which purported to be a letter dated September 24, 1947, from President Harry S. Truman to Secretary of Defense Forrestal, appeared to be genuine—but they pointed out that even though Truman did refer to "Operation Majestic Twelve" in the letter, there was nothing clearly linking the group to UFO investigations.

Others questioned why Hillenkoetter, head of the CIA, listed as the briefing officer on the MJ-12 document, would remain quiet about the crashed flying saucer and the alien bodies when he became active in civilian UFO research in 1957.

The biggest shocker to longtime UFO researchers was discovering the name of Harvard astronomer Donald Menzel on the MJ-12 list. Menzel was well known as a passionate debunker of flying saucers and the author of three anti-UFO books.

Stanton Friedman, who died in 2019, spent many years investigating the MJ-12 enigma and defending his original research and conclusions. Other investigators claim to have found supportive evidence in a secret memo from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, written as early as February 1944, in which he calls for a special committee on non-terrestrial science and technology and urges that group to face the reality that Earth is not the only planet harboring intelligent life in the universe. Some UFO researchers suggest that there was a crash of an extraterrestrial spaceship near Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in 1941 that prompted astonished scientists to evaluate the potential in discovering such advanced technology.

In spite of defenders in the UFO research field, the authenticity of the MJ-12 documents remains highly suspect. Skeptical researchers have labeled them as clearly false and fraudulent, pointing out that a thorough search of the records of the Truman administration reveals no executive order for such a UFO investigative group. Researchers who have served in the military have stated that the clearest indication of a hoax lies in the many incorrect military terms used in these allegedly "official" documents, suggesting that the creators of the papers had never served in the armed forces.

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MALAYSIAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 370

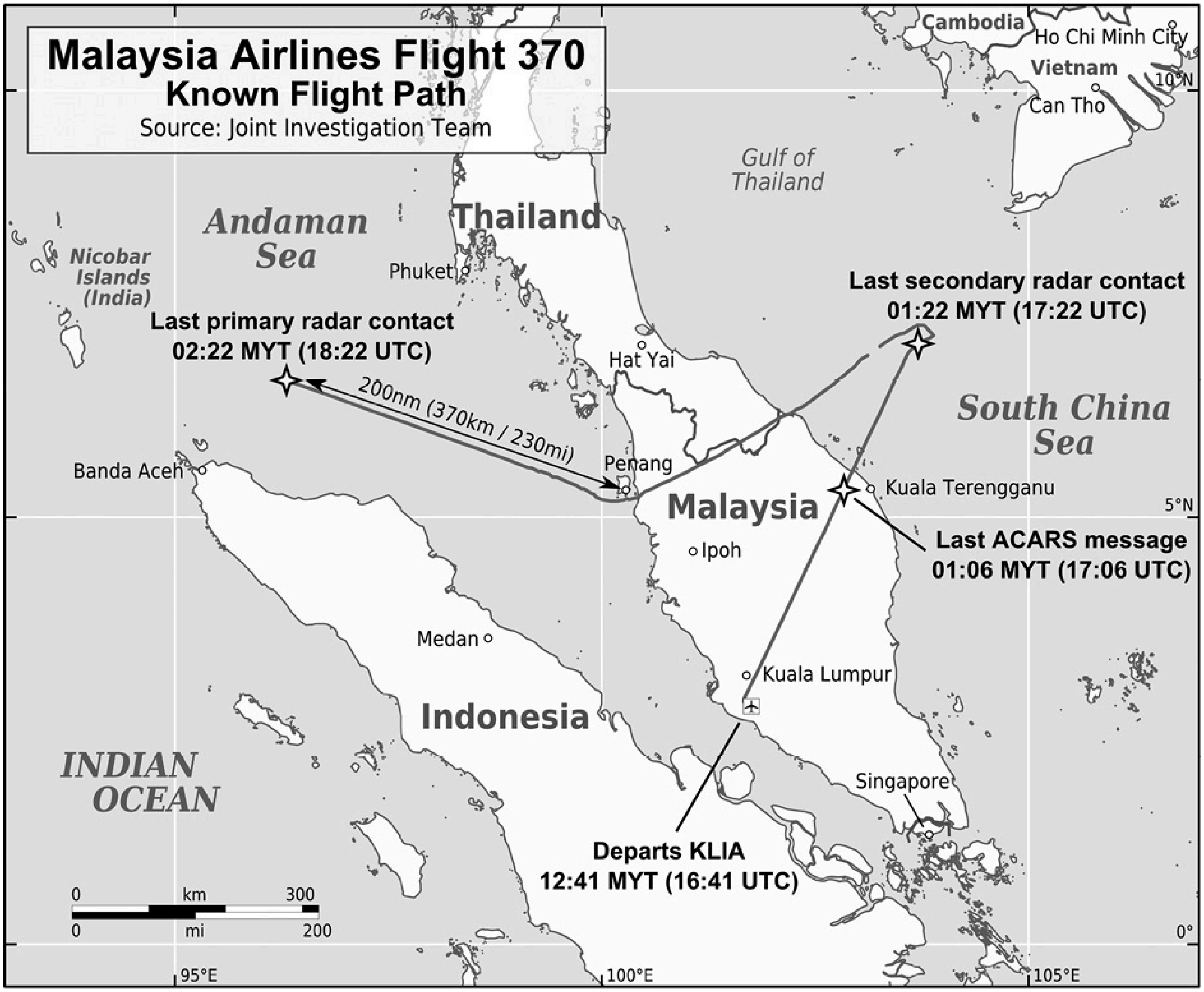
Missing airplanes have been extensively researched since the first mention of the Bermuda Triangle, but this lost passenger plane has sprouted an unusually large number of conspiracy theories.

After midnight on March 8, 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 took off from Kuala Lumpur and headed toward Beijing. It never reached its destination. Within an hour after takeoff, the crew had stopped communicating and the transponder was turned off. Soon after that, the radar showed the Boeing 777 abruptly changing course and heading back over the Indian Ocean before it disappeared from the radar completely. Although a satellite last tracked MH370's location at around 8 o'clock that morning, the plane and its 239 passengers and crew were never seen again.

Despite a lengthy international search and rescue effort that covered about 120,000 square kilometers of ocean, nothing was found. Starting in July 2015, wreckage began washing up on Tanzania and eastern Africa. The search was officially called off in 2017. Little was able to be determined about the crash from the small pieces of debris. Some of the theories about the cause of the crash range from a sudden loss of oxygen, which put the crew and passengers into an unconscious state, leaving the plane to continue on autopilot before running out of fuel, or that the pilot intentionally crashed MH370 into the Indian Ocean as a mass murder-suicide.

The lack of clear evidence despite the exhaustive investigations—not to mention the seemingly unrelated but highly suspicious shoot down of another Malaysian airliner just over three months later in eastern Ukraine—has led to a conspiracy free-for-all. Here are some of the more prominent theories:

- MH370 was hijacked and flown north to Kazakhstan, where it was landed at the Baikonur Cosmodrome, the spaceport that launched Yuri Gagarin into outer space in 1961.
- After being hijacked, the plane was taken to North Korea or China (over the half the people aboard were Chinese, and many were supposedly members of the banned antigovernment group Falun Gong).
- The plane vanished in what might be a second Bermuda Triangle.
- It was taken by aliens.
- The pilot was conducting an elaborate fakeout in which he parachuted from the plane to meet up with his mistress so they could carry on new lives in secret.


Malaysia Airlines Flight 370
Known Flight Path
Source: Joint Investigation Team
Cambodia
Ho Chi Minh City
Vietnam
Can Tho
10°N
Gulf of Thailand
Andaman Sea
Thailand
Nicobar Islands (India)
Phuket
Last secondary radar contact
01:22 MYT (17:22 UTC)
Last primary radar contact
02:22 MYT (18:22 UTC)
Hat Yai
200nm (370km / 230mi)
South China Sea
Banda Aceh
Penang
Malaysia
Kuala Terengganu
5°N
Last ACARS message
01:06 MYT (17:06 UTC)
Ipoh
Medan
Kuala Lumpur
Indonesia
INDIAN OCEAN
Singapore
Departs KLIA
12:41 MYT (16:41 UTC)
0
km
300
0
mi
200
0°
95°E
100°E
105°E

The flight plan of Malaysian Airlines Flight 370. The mysterious crash cost the lives of 239 passengers and crew.

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MALCOLM X, ASSASSINATION OF

Who assassinated the controversial leader: the FBI, the Nation of Islam, the mob, or one of his best friends?

No one will ever know if Malcolm X suspected that something was wrong that Sunday afternoon, February 21, 1965, when he arrived with his family at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem to speak at an Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU) rally. Only a week had passed since the Black leader’s home had been firebombed. He must have noticed that there were no police inside the ballroom and only two stationed outside the entrance. For Malcolm, an assassination attempt was always a possibility and he never turned down police protection. There were four hundred men and women crowded into the ballroom, but none of the dark-suited Nation of Islam guards standing near the stage and at the back of the room had searched anyone for weapons.

Later Malcolm’s pregnant wife, Betty Shabazz—when Malcolm X returned from Africa in June 1964, he became an orthodox Muslim and gave himself a new name: El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz—would be told that there were dozens of police officers across the street, waiting in a hospital, positioned there allegedly at the request of Malcolm, who had told them that their presence in the ballroom would create tension among the members of the audience. She denied that her husband would ever have made such a request.

Malcolm waited with Betty and their four children in an anteroom until the rally began, then he asked two of his bodyguards to escort them out into the ballroom and seat them in a box near the front of the stage. His bodyguards noticed that Malcolm seemed nervous and irritable.

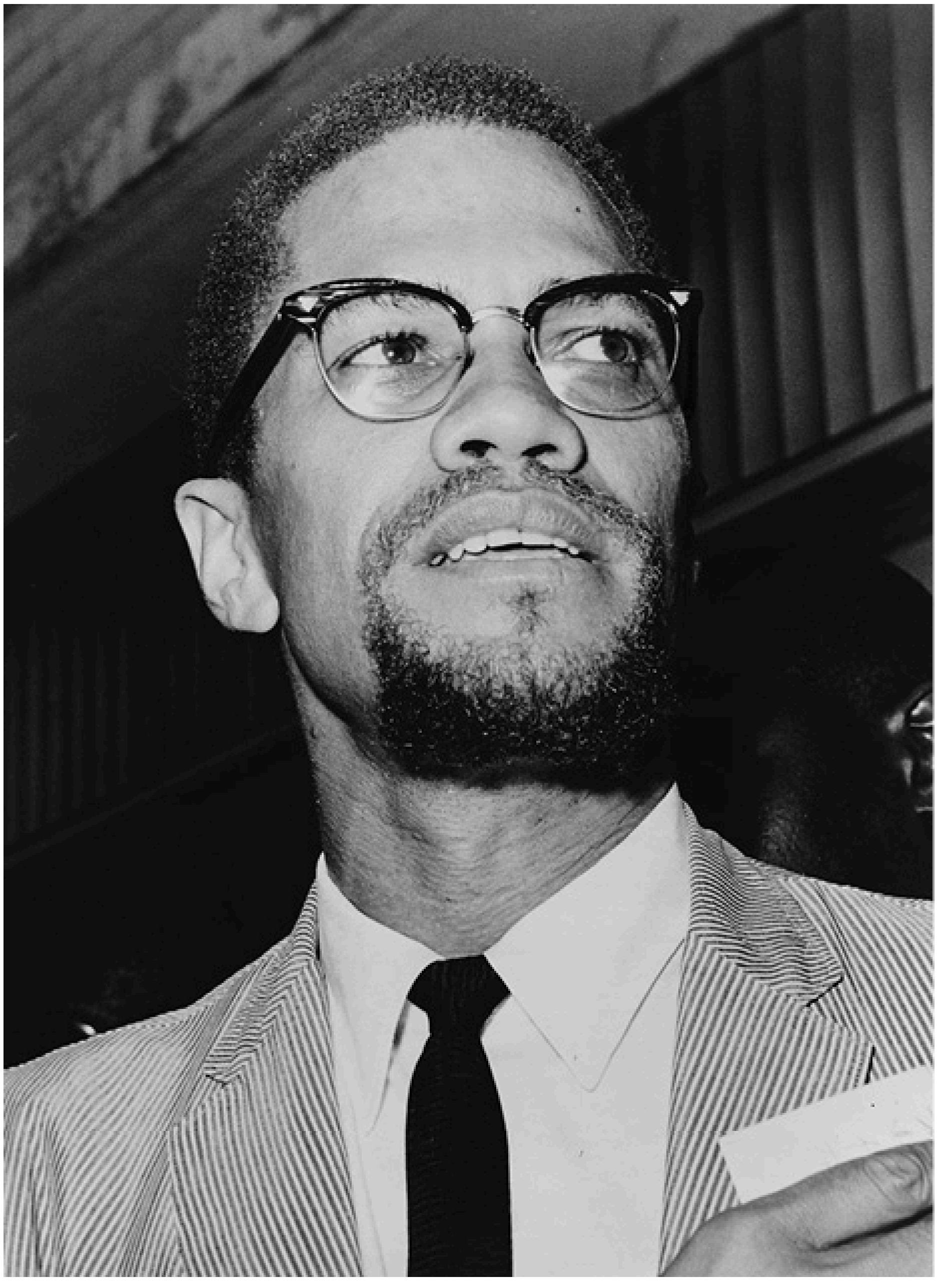
Benjamin Goodman finished his opening speech and introduced Malcolm. The civil rights leader, founder of the OAAU, got to his feet, managed a slight smile, and walked out on the stage to loud applause. He went to the podium and had only begun to speak when a fight broke out near the rear of the ballroom. Malcolm asked the two men to “cool it, brothers,” just as a loud explosion sounded in the back of the room and heavy smoke began to fill the area.

As bodyguards ran toward the back to investigate the disturbances, a man stood up from the front row and fired both barrels of a sawed-off shotgun at Malcolm. As the civil rights leader fell backward, grabbing at his chest, two more men rushed the stage, firing pistols at him. An FBI report stated that Malcolm had “ten bullet wounds in his chest, thigh, and ankle, plus four bullet creases in the chest and thigh.”

Many of Malcolm’s followers rushed to his fallen body, but it was quickly determined that he was dead. The majority of the crowd in the ballroom were pushing to get out, uncertain if there was a fire sweeping through the place.

Others went after the shooters. One assassin managed to escape by crawling out a restroom window. Two other suspects were beaten and kicked by the angry crowd as they tried to run down the stairs to the street. Twenty-two-year-old Talmadge Hayer (a.k.a. Thomas Hagan) was shot in the leg by one of Malcolm's bodyguards and kicked and beaten by the crowd until rescued by two uniformed policemen. The other assassin caught by the crowd somehow managed to escape, even after being knocked down by an undercover policeman named Gene Roberts. Roberts then ran to the stage and attempted to resuscitate the fallen Malcolm. Bodyguards stepped aside, recognizing Roberts as "Brother Gene," a police officer who had grown very close to Malcolm.

Now the mystery begins. Who ordered the assassination of Malcolm X?



Civil Rights leader Malcolm X was once involved in the Nation of Islam, but after a pilgrimage to Mecca, he broke from the group to form Muslim Mosque, Inc. Afterwards, he received threats from the Nation of Islam and was killed in 1965.

- The Nation of Islam (NOI) came first to the minds of many of Malcolm's followers. Malcolm had been the NOI's most famous and effective proselytizer and very close to the Nation's leader, Elijah Muhammed. But after Malcolm had denounced Muhammed as an adulterer and left the NOI In addition to the Organization of Afro-American Unity, Malcolm had founded the Muslim Mosque, Inc. (MMI), and many believed that the NOI's leaders were jealous of his ability to recruit their members. Prominent NOI minister Louis Farrakhan told followers that those who followed Malcolm X would be led to hell or to their doom. Years later at a rally, he tellingly reacted to criticism from outside the NOI by asking rhetorically, "Was Malcolm our traitor or was he yours? And if we dealt with him like a nation deals with traitors, what the hell business is it of yours?"
- After researching more than 300,000 pages of declassified FBI and CIA documents, Karl Evanzz, author of *The Judas Factor: The Plot to Kill Malcolm X* (1992), believed that the assassination was ordered by the American intelligence community and arranged by Malcolm's former friend John Ali, an intelligence agent, informer, and highly ranked in NOI's security apparatus.
- Some investigators pointed to the Mafia, remembered how angry organized crime bosses had been at Malcolm X for his effective crusade against drugs, alcohol, and crime in Harlem. The militant black leader had been very successful in cleaning up the streets and replacing slums with black pride and black businesses.
- Perhaps the greater number of conspiracy theorists vote for the FBI's COINTELPRO and recall FBI director J. Edgar Hoover's mandate to get the goods on and/or dispose of radical, militant, civil rights groups or war protestors by any means necessary. COINTELPRO (counterintelligence program) agents were to neutralize subversive political organizations and dissidents through covert means. This theory helped explain the lack of security at the rally, even though surveillance of Malcolm was so omnipresent that it was believed his watchers would have been well aware of the danger he was in.

The first edition of the February 22, 1965, *New York Herald Tribune* was printed on Sunday evening, just a few hours after the assassination of Malcolm X, for distribution Monday morning. The top headline in the first edition read, "Malcolm X Slain by Gunmen as 400 in Ballroom Watch." The lead article, written by Jimmy Breslin, mentioned two suspects rescued by police: Talmadge Hayer, taken to Bellevue Hospital under heavy police guard, and an unnamed person taken to Wadsworth Avenue Precinct.

The afternoon edition of the same paper appeared with its top headline unchanged, but the two suspects had become one—and Breslin's story was rewritten to exclude the unnamed suspect. The first edition of the *New York Times* similarly proclaimed, "Police Hold Two for Questioning." The name of the police officer, Thomas Hoy, who grabbed the "suspect" was given as well. But in a later edition of the *Times* the headline read: "One is Held in Killing."

Three men were seen firing at nearly point-blank range on Malcolm X. Where did two of them go?

Three men were eventually arrested for Malcolm X's murder. Talmadge Hayer, Norman 3X Butler, and Thomas 15X Johnson were all convicted of first-degree murder in March 1966. Hayer testified that neither Butler and Johnson was involved in the assassination. Butler and Johnson were well known to Malcolm's aides and bodyguards as Nation of Islam enforcers, yet all of these individuals swore that neither man was present in the ballroom when Malcolm X was assassinated.

Conspiracy theorists wonder about Malcolm X's new best friend, Gene Roberts, the undercover agent of the Bureau of Secret Services, an agency so secretive that even New York City police were unaware of its existence, its activities, and its agents. Witnesses recalled that just prior to the shooting, Roberts was positioned on the stage near Malcolm X. Other witnesses saw him signal to the bodyguards to move just before he went to another position away from the stage. The bullets removed from Malcolm's body were identified as one 9-mm slug, several shotgun pellets, and one .45 slug. The shotgun was found at the scene. The .45 was later recovered. A 9-mm weapon was never located.

Theorists have suggested that Roberts fired a 9-mm bullet into Malcolm during the diversion caused by the agents in the back of the ballroom. When the angry crowd began to chase the shooters, Roberts pretended to capture of one of the assassins, whom he actually rescued from the crowd by knocking him down and appearing to have captured him. According to this theory, Roberts then faked a valiant effort to resuscitate the victim, then he disappeared into the mists of covert action, mission accomplished—a subversive radical eliminated.

More questions were raised in 2021 when it was revealed that two of the convicted men had correctly been maintaining their innocence. An investigation by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office discovered that the FBI and NYPD had withheld crucial evidence during the trial which would shown that Muhammad Aziz and Khalil Islam (who had changed their names from Norman 3X Butler, and Thomas 15X Johnson) were not guilty. By that point, Aziz was already out of prison, while Islam died in 2009. In addition to the original investigation's rampant sloppiness (which some conspiracy theorists might imagine was intentional), it was discovered that three NYPD detectives had been undercover in the ballroom when Malcolm X was killed but did not seem to do anything to intervene.

After the men's convictions were thrown out, Abdur-Rahman Muhammad, whose 2020 documentary series *Who Killed Malcolm X?* helped spur interest in Aziz and Islam's innocence, asked the *Los Angeles Times*, "Why were these men set up like this? That's the question. When the government knew who the real assassins were, why didn't they just arrest the real assassins?"

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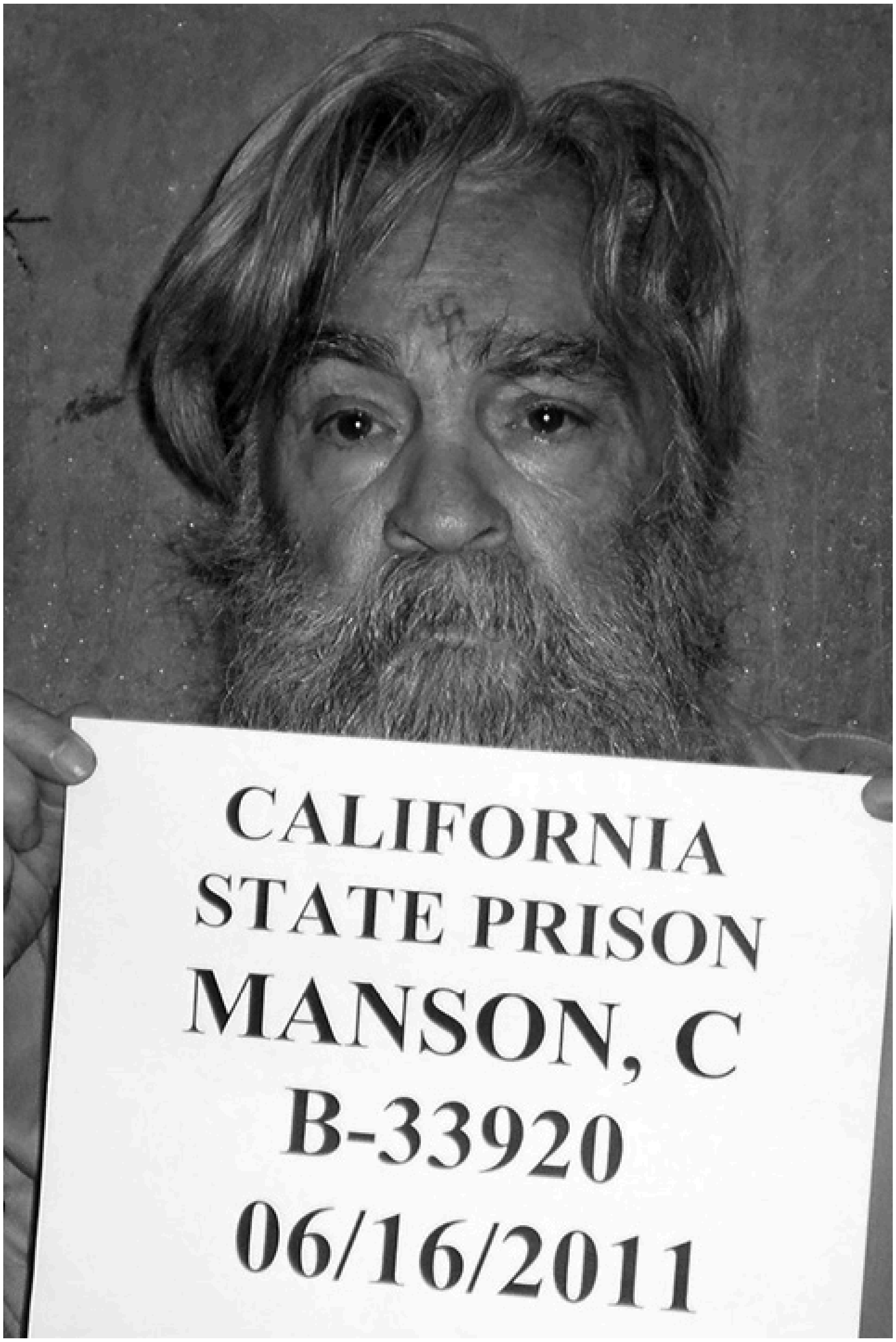
MANSON FAMILY

Because God, the Devil, and humanity are all one, Charles Manson reasoned, it really doesn't matter if you kill someone. But could his dark charisma have been manipulated by somebody or something else?



A prison photo of Charles Manson taken in 2011. Manson, still serving time in Corcoran State Prison, died in 2017.

Trouble came looking for Charles Manson on the day he was born. His unwed mother was a teenaged hustler named Kathleen Maddox, who shortly after Charlie's birth on November 11, 1934, in Cincinnati, Ohio, was convicted, along with her brother, for mugging a number of the men she had solicited. Although only sixteen years old, she was sent to prison.

With his mother jailed, baby Charlie was sent to live his grandmother in West Virginia. Later he lived with a quarrelsome uncle and aunt who spent their time fighting. Neighbors recalled Manson as "a poor little kid who never received any love or affection." Charlie never met his father, a "Colonel Scott," who lived in Ashland, Kentucky.

When Manson was eight years old, his mother was released from prison. Charlie trailed along with her as she drank heavily and hustled a steady succession of men. They lived in rundown apartments on the ugly side of the city. By 1945 his mother had found a traveling salesman to live with and she took Charlie along with her to Indianapolis. The authorities there took a cold look at the boy' s lack of home life and made him a ward of the county. Charlie was sent to the Gibault School for Boys, a custodial institution for homeless or wayward boys. He escaped after ten months. This began a cycle of tougher and stricter reform schools from which Charlie, by his own count, escaped twenty-eight times. The small, uneducated, and nearly illiterate Manson had spent roughly two-thirds of his life behind bars by the time he was arrested for the murders that would make him an international boogeyman.

Early on the morning of August 9, 1969, housekeeper Winifred Chapman arrived at Sharon Tate and Roman Polanski's Los Angeles mansion on 10050 Cielo Drive. She first became suspicious about a white Rambler Ambassador automobile blocking the driveway. Approaching the vehicle, she was shocked to see the driver, Steven Parent, nineteen, a friend of William Garretson, the caretaker, dead, shot in the head, slumped over in the front seat. Chapman walked farther onto the grounds and discovered the bodies of Abigail Folger and Wojciech Frykowski, two guests of Sharon Tate, sprawled on the lawn. The front entrance was covered in blood. "PIG!" was scrawled in blood across the front door.

The police rushed to the mansion, checked the corpses on the lawn, then dashed inside to find the bodies of the pregnant Tate and her friend Jay Sebring. The officers interrogated Garretson because they assumed that he had been present at the time of the killings. The caretaker soon convinced them that he knew nothing about the massacre of the celebrity victims.

Thirty-five-year-old Sebring (birth name Thomas John Kummer) came to Hollywood in 1958 and established a hairstyling salon in Hollywood. Within a short time, his clients included the most famous stars in filmdom. He styled hair for Sammy Davis Jr., Warren Beatty, Steve McQueen, Eddie Fisher, Paul Newman, Frank Sinatra, and Henry Fonda.

Known as "Gibby" to her friends, Abigail Folger was a Radcliffe-educated coffee heiress who came to Hollywood looking for excitement. She had money, education, and the daring to compete with the most beautiful women in Hollywood for favors and attention. She lived in an apartment in Laurel Canyon with Frykowski, a noted Polish film producer.

The night of the murders, Tate's husband, filmmaker Roman Polanski, was attending a party in London to celebrate the completion of his new movie, *A Day at the Beach*. Tate and Polanski had met when she accepted a role in his movie *The Fearless Vampire Killers*. After they were married, Sharon appeared in a number of Polanski's films and she allowed him to photograph her for a photo layout in *Playboy*. Polanski grieved not only for his wife, but for their unborn child.

Considered one of the most beautiful women in Hollywood, Tate won the coveted role of "Jennifer" in the highly promoted film *Valley of the Dolls*. When not making films, she often joined Abigail Folger and the actress Mia Farrow for philosophical discussions or seances at Farrow's home near Malibu Beach.

Ironically, in 1967, while Tate was receiving international attention for her role in *Valley of the Dolls*, Charles Manson was released after serving seven years of a ten-year prison term on federal Mann Act charges. It was while he was doing time in the U.S. prison at McNeil Island, Washington, that he began studying the occult. Manson was also inspired by the music of the Beatles, and he learned to play a steel guitar. He trained his voice and began to write songs.

Music and mysticism were his two chief interests when he walked out of prison in March 1967. A whole new world had been born while he was behind bars. The flower children had launched the hippie movement. At that time, the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood in San Francisco was the promised land for the hippies, so Manson got a hillside pad and started to collect his followers.

One of his first recruits was attractive nineteen-year-old brunette Patricia Krenwinkel. She had graduated from Los Angeles High in 1966 and was considered a reserved, conservative young woman until she met Charles Manson. He called himself Satan the All-Powerful, and Patricia joined Satan's harem so fast that she abandoned her automobile in a parking lot and left without picking up her paycheck at her job.

Manson cultivated an image as a mystical minstrel that collected a number of young dropouts, mostly women but with some men. The group became known as the Manson Family. Gullible, emotionally disturbed, and often immature, his young followers believed Manson was a messiah of the new age. Manson led his cult in weird chants. He adopted mystical rites and began to make prophecies. Anyone who doubted his God-like stature was threatened with expulsion from the group.

There is some evidence to indicate that Manson was also influenced by the dark and possibly Satanic rituals of a group called the Process Church of the Final Judgement. This occult collective was briefly the fad in late-1960s swinging London and spread its message through a graphic, taboo-busting magazine called *The Process*. Manson was apparently aware enough of their beliefs and the embrace of violent sacrifice that he contributed an article to the magazine's "Death" issue. The Process Church suffered from its Manson connection and ultimately changed its name, though was still believed by some to have secretly continued to carry out Satanic rituals and to have possibly influenced "Son of Sam" killer David Berkowitz.

Led by their mystical guru, the Manson Family converted an old school bus into a rolling pad. In May 1968, with the San Francisco scene dying out and hippies, Manson and his clan of subservient young women and men headed south toward Los Angeles. The bearded, long-haired cultist was certain that he would make a fortune there as a songwriter and musician.

In the film capital, Manson and his nomads met and moved in with musician Gary Hinman. The Hinman home was labeled "the pig farm," a place where anyone might find refuge.

In December 1968, when the Beatles released their *White Album*, which included the song "Helter Skelter," Manson became even more obsessed with the notion that he deserved a break in the music business. He believed there was a large audience for his songs about the racial Armageddon he believed was bearing down on society. The countdown had begun: At any moment, Manson believed that blacks were going to begin to slaughter whites. He intended to bring about this race war, believing that he and his followers would survive and then somehow be in a powerful position afterwards (Manson was not just intensely racist, believing in the inferiority of black people, he was also deeply delusional). This is what he thought "Helter Skelter" meant.

Manson also thought that Terry Melcher, a record-producer acquaintance who was the singer and actress Doris Day's son, could open doors for him. He became incensed when that did not happen. He found out that Melcher lived at 10050 Cielo Drive, and he resolved to one day pay him a visit. On March 23, 1969, Manson arrived at the home he believed to be Melcher's, not realizing that the house had been sold to Tate and Polanski. He met with a rather rude brush-off by a Tate staff member and left outraged.

On July 31 Gary Hinman was discovered slashed to death, the bloody words "political piggy" scrawled on the walls of his house. Hinman is believed to be the first murder victim of the Manson Family.

About this time, Manson began to order his family members on nighttime maneuvers that the girls called "creepy crawlies," during which they donned black costumes and "creepy-crawled" around people's houses. The purpose of the exercises, Manson explained, was to allow them to experience and overcome fear.

On August 8 Manson told family members Susan Atkins, Charles "Tex" Watson, Linda Kasabian, and Pat Krenwinkel to get their knives and their changes of clothing because the time had come for Helter Skelter.

Armed with knives, a change of clothes, and a gun, Watson drove the team to the Tate mansion. He parked the vehicle, snipped the telephone wires. The cultists were surprised when Steven Parent walked down the driveway from the caretaker's cottage and got into his automobile. Watson rushed to the boy's Rambler, fired twice, and killed him.

Watson forced open a window of the mansion, crawled inside, and opened the door for his companions. Frykowski was asleep on a couch in the living room, but he awakened and began to shout at the intruders. Watson pulled out his pistol and told Frykowski that he was the devil and that they were there to do his business.

The disturbance alarmed Tate and the other guests. Sebring stared at the armed strangers and began to fight. He was shot, stabbed, and fell dead in the living room. Although Frykowski had been tied, he broke the nylon cords that bound him. One of the girls stabbed him several times as he raced out of the house screaming for help. Watson pursued the wounded man, clubbed him with the pistol, then shot him in the back. Folger was stabbed as she tried to run toward the caretaker's house on the southern edge of the grounds. She was caught, slashed, and stabbed to death on the lawn.

Actress Sharon Tate, who was married to director and producer Roman Polanski, was brutally murdered by Manson's followers.

Tate battled two of the girls until she was overpowered and forced back onto a couch. She told them that all she wanted to do was to have her baby. She was stabbed to death.

When they returned, Manson berated his family members for doing such a messy job of slaughter. That night he accompanied Krenwinkel, Watson, Van Houten, and Kasabian as they drove around deciding upon the next victims to sacrifice in order to announce the coming bloodbath between blacks and whites.

In the early morning hours, Krenwinkel, Van Houten, Kasabian, and Watson pulled up in front of the Los Angeles home of Leno and Rosemary LaBianca. The couple were seized by the cultists and tied up. They pleaded for their lives to the group, who were apparently tripping on LSD. The LaBiancas were stabbed to death. Before they left, the murderers scrawled "Death to Pigs" and "Helter Skelter" on a wall and a refrigerator door.

Manson was arrested and jailed on October 12 for grand theft auto. After following numerous leads, the Los Angeles police able to implicate him and certain members of his family in the Tate-LaBianca murders. On July 24, 1970, the trial began in Los Angeles with the defendants Manson, Atkins, Krenwinkel, and Van Houten. Kasabian was granted immunity in return for appearing as the prosecution's star witness. Watson, the principal killer in the murders, had returned to Texas and was arrested on November 30, 1969. He was tried separately in 1971 and convicted of seven counts of first-degree murder.

Throughout their arraignments and trials, Manson's female followers claimed that their self-styled guru was innocent of any blame in the slayings. Krenwinkel described life in Manson's nomadic family as an ideal existence.

On January 25, 1971, Manson and his female codefendants were convicted of first-degree murder, and on March 29, 1971, all four were given the death penalty.

On February 18, 1972, the California Supreme Court ruled that the death penalty was unconstitutional. Death sentences were automatically reduced to life in prison.

Manson was denied for parole multiple times and continued making news every few years with stunt interviews and correspondence with mass murder groupies. He died on November 19, 2017, while still serving time in Bakersfield, California.

Atkins, along with her female family members, served her life sentence at the California Institution for Women at Frontera. She died of cancer in 2009 while behind bars.

In spite of an exemplary prison record, earning multiple degrees, and being recommended for release, Van Houten was denied parole on several occasions.

Krenwinkel also failed to receive parole and remained incarcerated at the California Institution for Women in Chino.

Watson resided at the Mule Creek State Prison in Ione, California. In 1975 he became a born-again Christian, and in 1983 an ordained minister.

Linda Kasabian, who was granted immunity, left California, and her present whereabouts are unknown.

In 1994 the mansion at 10050 Cielo Drive was demolished.

Although prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi's account of the Manson trial, *Helter Skelter* (1974), has long been viewed as authoritative, some researchers have questioned whether or not the diminutive racist pimp and wannabe rock star really had orchestrated all of this on his own.

Journalist Tom O'Neill, in his investigative book *CHAOS: Charles Manson, the CIA, and the Secret History of the Sixties* (2019), noted how Bugliosi had once conjectured that Manson's ability to turn his followers into killers "may be something that he learned from others." Given the combination of brainwashing and drugs prevalent in the Manson Family, O'Neill conjectured Manson had learned the tricks of his trade from none other than Jolly West. A CIA-linked researcher filled with creative but frequently dubious ideas, West had set up a lab in Haight Ashbury made to look like a hippie crash pad which he used to study behavior modification through the usage of LSD. Manson and his Family had visited the local free medical clinic where West was also working.

Given this connection and the documented attempts by the CIA through its Operation CHAOS—a blatantly illegal COINTELPRO-like campaign to infiltrate, surveil, disrupt, and destroy antiwar activists and other left-wing groups—it does not take much to convince some people that there were strings being pulled that led to the seemingly inexplicable Manson murders, even if the people who carried them out were not aware of the manipulation.

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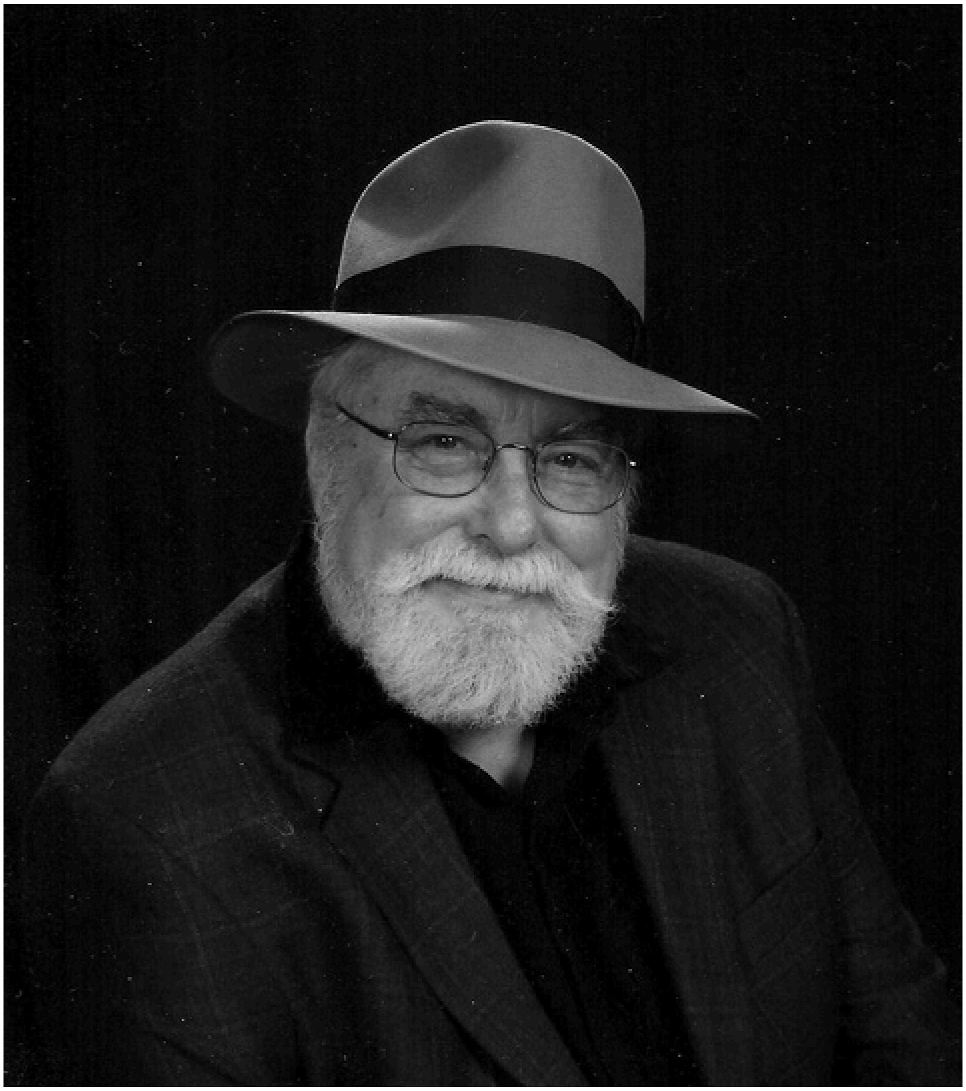
JIM MARRS

This longtime journalist spent decades researching government programs involving psychic phenomena and uncovering secrets.



Jim Marrs

Although generally described as a "conspiracy theorist," Jim Marrs operated by this motto: "If it's not an act of God, it's a conspiracy." Accidents do happen, but if it's not accidental then someone planned it that way. And as for theories—if you can prove something, it is no longer a theory but a fact."

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Marrs earned a degree in journalism from the University of North Texas and spent many years as newspaper journalist, investigative reporter, author, and television personality. He also served in the Fourth Army intelligence unit during the Vietnam War and taught a course on the Kennedy assassination for decades at the University of Texas at Arlington.

In 1989, his book *Crossfire: The Plot That Killed Kennedy* became a bestseller and was later one of the sources for Oliver Stone's film *JFK*. Marrs served as a chief consultant for both the film's screenplay and production.

Beginning in 1992, Marrs spent three years researching and completing a nonfiction book on a top-secret government program involving the psychic phenomenon known as remote viewing, only to have it mysteriously canceled as it was going to press in the summer of 1995.

Within two months, the story of military-developed remote viewing broke nationally in the *Washington Post* after the CIA revealed the program while putting its own spin on psychic studies. *Psi Spies* was finally published in 2007.

He expanded his research to alien phenomena, publishing an in-depth investigation of UFOs, *Alien Agenda*, which became one of the most popular books on the subject around the world. Later books covered a wide gamut of subjects, from the hidden history that connects modern secret societies to the Ancient Mysteries (*Rule by Secrecy*), conspiracies related to the 9/11 attacks (*The Terror Conspiracy*), and the infiltration of Nazism into the United States (*The Rise of the Fourth Reich*).

"I think the thing I have found most significant in my research is that modern secret societies such as the Council on Foreign Relations, The Trilateral Commission and Bilderbergers can be traced back through older groups such as Cecil Rhodes' Round Tables, Illumanized Freemasonry and the Knights Templar to the ancient mystery schools of Greece and Egypt, which possessed much of the elder knowledge the Annunaki handed down to the Sumerians," Marrs said in an email to the Steigers. "There has been one continuous trail of underground knowledge and attempted control throughout human history."

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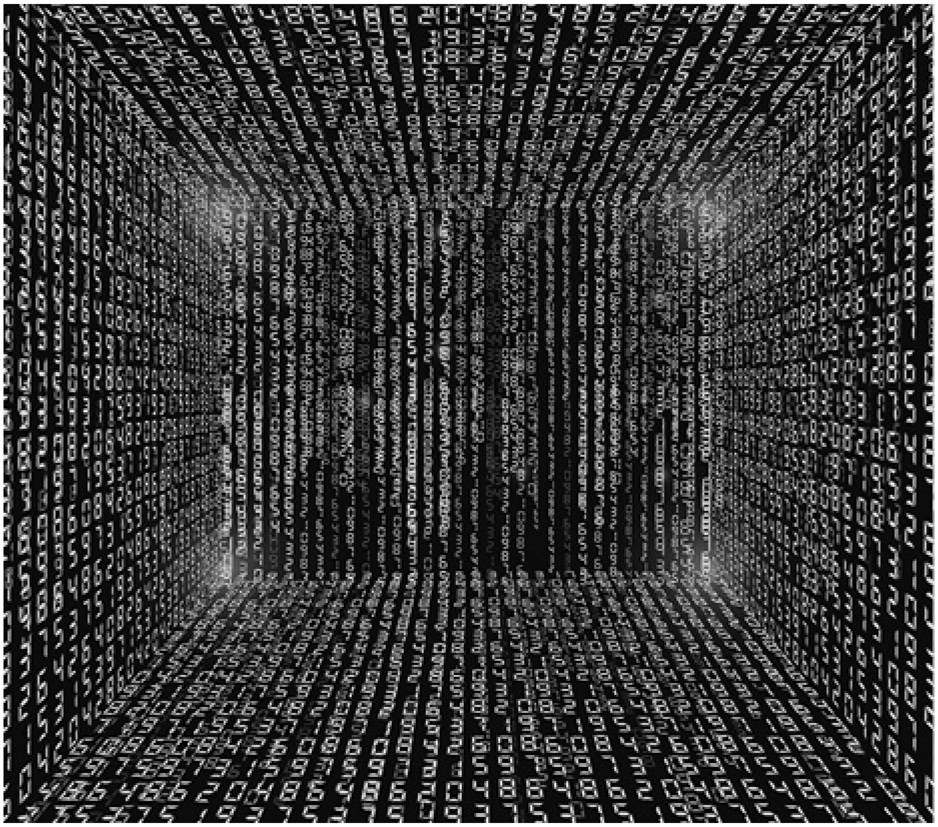
THE MATRIX AND SIMULATION THEORY

Does your life feel not quite…real? Maybe that's because it isn't.

The 1999 film *The Matrix* was an unexpected smash hit. A dense amalgam of postmodernist theory, Philip K. Dick-style paranoia, and over-the-top, Asian-style fight choreography, it had an undeniably gripping premise that was common in science fiction circles but less so in the mainstream: What if everything we sense is not real but merely the creation of a massive computer simulation?



Just like in the movie series The Matrix, many wonder whether what we perceive as reality is merely a simulation.

In the film, alien invaders have trapped the entire human race into energy-sucking pods that use their bodies like batteries; the simulated world those billions of prisoners believe is their life is just a lifelike computer program designed to keep them calm, sedated, and unaware of the true horror of their lives. In the film, Keanu Reeves is able to fight back by learning how to use the alien intelligence's network against it. Some conspiracy theorists believe that today's humanity needs to do the same thing.

Building on the long-running concern in some circles that the majority of people meekly accept the world to be what they are told (aka "sheeple"), some researchers have taken the concept further by suggesting that, in fact, we are all living inside a simulation. For these thinkers, it is not a question of *if* reality is programmed but *who* has programmed it and *why*.

Some believers in "simulation theory" think that we may not even have real bodies in a vat somewhere but could, in fact, just be ones and zeroes existing on a vast, galactic database geared to run us through different simulations for either research or entertainment purposes. In 2003, University of Oxford philosopher Nick Bostrom wrote a widely read paper in which he argued that it is actually more likely that reality is a simulation than that it is not. In an infamous case that happened that same year, 19-year-old Josh Cooke murdered his adoptive parents with a shotgun and later claimed that he fervently believed them all to be living inside the matrix from the film. In 2013, Lee Boyd Malvo—one of the two snipers who killed 10 people in around Washington, D.C.—wrote that people needed to free themselves from "the matrix."

Variations on simulation theory are frequently toyed with by other conspiracy believers, many of whom are convinced that the world feels wrong to them and that being inside a gargantuan computer program makes more sense than anything else.

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MAU MAU

Kikuyu dissidents in Kenya revived an ancient secret society to support their demands for independence from the British.

In 1948, police officials in the British colony of Kenya began to receive reports of midnight assemblies in the jungle, rituals that included the eating of human flesh and the drinking of blood. These strange accounts were soon followed by stories of native people being dragged from their beds at night, beaten, and forced to swear oaths of initiation to a secret society called the Mau Mau.

Experts on tribal culture thought that the Mau Mau was an ancient Kikuyu secret society that had been reactivated. The Kikuyu tribe was the most populous and best educated in Kenya, but their culture also permitted secret societies to flourish, and many such groups had existed since long before the Europeans colonized their land. The Mau Mau leaders invoked the old secret society in order to stir up the Kikuyu to support their demands for independence and for the return of the Kikuyu land.

The reactivated secret society had moved from practicing black magic and the administration of blood oaths into violent attacks. The first man to die at the hands of the Mau Mau was a Kikuyu chief who spoke out against them. A state of emergency was declared in Kenya as the midnight rituals and beatings escalated into the murder of Kikuyu policemen, whose bodies were found mutilated and bound with wire, floating in rivers. White farmers discovered their cattle disemboweled and the tendons in the animals' legs severed so they could not walk. In October 1952 a lone white settler was killed and disemboweled. An elderly farmer was found dead in November; in January 1953 two men who worked a farm as partners were discovered murdered by the Mau Mau.

British troops search for Kikuyu dissidents in this 1953 photo. The Mau Mau secret society urged the Kikuyu to resist the Brits.

The Mau Mau weapon of choice was the panga, a broad-bladed machete commonly used to hack a path through thick jungle vegetation. The society appeared to favor bloody and brutal attacks as a means of striking fear into the hearts and minds of all who might oppose them, but their choice of enemies often seemed difficult to understand.

A vicious attack on January 24, 1953, claimed the Rucks, a family of English heritage who had always been seen as fair-minded and charitable. The next violent raid occurred on March 26, 1953, against the police station at Naivasha. The attackers overran the station and hauled away guns and ammunition in a truck. Later that same night, the Mau Mau bound the circular huts in the villages of Lari with cables so the doors could not be opened, poured gasoline over the thatched roofs, and set the homes on fire. Most of the men of the village were away serving in the Kikuyu Guard, an anti–Mau Mau force, so most of the ninety bodies found in the charred remains were those of women and children. In addition, the Mau Mau had mutilated over a thousand of the villagers' cattle as further punishment for opposing them.

The ranks of the Mau Mau increased when they began to force many unwilling individuals from other tribes into participating in their blood oaths. The oathing ceremonies began with the new members taking a vow to honor the old religion of their tribal ancestors. There were at least seven stages of oath-taking, which might take several days or weeks to complete and which included the drinking of blood, eating portions of human flesh, having sex with animals, and ingesting bits of brains from disinterred corpses. After the seventh stage of the oath-taking had been reached, the members had to repeat the cycle and reinforce their vows by beginning again. No man or woman was exempt from this requirement, not even the leaders of the society.

The Mau Mau reign of terror was broken by small bands of white settlers who joined the auxiliary police, army units, and Kikuyus, who taught the whites how to move silently through the thick underbrush. In May 1956 a party of Kikuyu tribal police captured Dedan Kimathi, the militant head of the Mau Mau. The British executed Kimathi in 1957 for having ordered atrocities and murders.

By the time the Mau Mau were disbanded, they had slaughtered over two thousand African tribespeople and maimed many thousands more. Killings of white settlers attributed to the Mau Mau range from thirty-two to nearly a hundred.

The Kikuyu Central Association, the political party that fronted for the secret activities of the Mau Mau, was headed by Johnstone Kamau, better known as Jomo Kenyatta. Under his leadership, Kenya gained independence in 1963.

If average Americans could grow their own herbs for medicinal needs or had the knowledge of simple, but effective, home remedies, they wouldn't need the expensive pills and nostrums of the pharmaceutical companies.

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MEDICAL CURES AND TECHNOLOGIES ARE SUPPRESSED

Conspiracists believe that the U.S. Patent Office is controlled by powerful business interests which will deny Americans a better, healthier, less costly life so that big corporations may profit.

There is a nine-member committee that screens applicants in the U.S. Patent Office with the express purpose of ferreting out those inventions that might in some way threaten national security. In this age when it is usually encouraged to create new energy devices and processes that might offer alternatives to our ravenous hunger for oil, one might suppose that there is a flood of applications from enthusiastic inventors who envision billions of dollars cascading down upon them as a reward for solving our energy quandary. Likewise, in a time of concerns about a balanced diet, the death tolls caused by cancer and heart disease, and a general obsession with health, thousands of proponents of various panaceas wish to protect their cures for anything and everything that ails their fellow humans.

Conspiracy theorists argue that the committee of nine harbors hidden agendas in its examination of patent applications. They believe that this is because the members are in the pockets of the fossil fuel and power monopolies, pharmaceutical companies, and the military-industrial complex, and they are paid well to squelch any new invention or cure that might cut into their profits. If average American families had a free energy device that could power their homes and vehicles, they wouldn't need the big fuel or electrical companies. If average Americans could grow their own herbs for medicinal needs or had the knowledge of simple, but effective, home remedies, they wouldn't need the expensive pills and nostrums of the pharmaceutical companies.

In 1950, after many years of research, biochemist Dr. Ernest T. Krebs isolated a new vitamin that he labeled B-17 and called "Laetrile." After many more years of testing, thousands of cancer sufferers firmly believed that Dr. Krebs had discovered the panacea that could conquer that dreadful disease. The national response to word-of-mouth endorsements was a massive attack on Laetrile by pharmaceutical multinationals. In short order, Laetrile was suppressed in the United States, forcing thousands of Americans to travel to Mexico each year to undergo therapy at certain hospitals that treat cancer with nutrition. These hospitals claim a nearly one hundred percent recovery rate in treating tumors that have not been poisoned with chemotherapy, burned by radiation, or cut into with a surgeon's scalpel.

In 1958, fourteen-year-old wunderkind Patrick Flanagan invented the neurophone, a device that enables the profoundly deaf to hear by transferring sounds directly into their brains, bypassing their ears. Although dozens of qualified medical doctors have tested and approved the device, the technology employed in the neurophone has been suppressed by the U.S. government for decades, possibly because classified electronic mind control programs utilize similar instrumentation.

In the 1960s and '70s, French researcher Antoine Prioré fashioned amazingly effective electromagnetic healing machines that cured a wide variety of the most difficult kinds of terminal diseases. Winning the support of French Prime Minister Jacques Chaban-Delmas; the World Health Organization; Andre Lwoff, the 1965 Nobel Prize winner for Medicine; members of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Bordeaux; and medical doctors specializing in cancer treatment at the Villejuf Institute for Cancer Research, Prioré received millions of dollars in funds to sustain his research. In 1974, multinational attacks cost Prioré his local government support and his funding.

Wilhelm Reich, who believed in the power of orgone energy and built orgone "accumulators" that could cure cancer and other diseases, was convicted of fraud by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and died in prison in 1957.

Raymond Royal Rife was convinced that microorganisms could be seen if they were illuminated by certain wavelengths of light. Once the correct frequencies were focused on the wavelengths at which various viruses resonated, the microorganisms could be destroyed selectively without harming any of the adjacent healthy tissues. Rife died in 1971 under somewhat suspicious circumstances when he was given an overdose of a medicine. He has many supporters today who continue to market various versions of his machines.

William B. Stoecker, a columnist for *Unexplained Mysteries*, tells us there are other promising nontraditional approaches to healing, such as chelation therapy, vitamin therapy, and hyperbaric oxygen for strokes. But, he cautions, it appears that "the U.S. government is planning to follow the lead of the European Union's Codex Alimentarius, which would ban virtually all over the counter supplements, leaving us … to the not-so-tender mercies of the

FDA and the big pharmaceutical companies…. We may not have real proof of suppressed technologies, but we do have a suspicious overall pattern… and everything is in the patterns.”

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, conspiracy theories proliferated about pharmaceutical companies pushing the population toward their approved vaccines and away from other less-traditional cures. Even though the medicines under discussion were different (some people fervently believed that a horse-deworming medication was the best way to avoid or treat the virus), the culprit was the same as in previous decades (Big Pharma).

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MEN IN BLACK (MIB)

Since the 1950s serious UFO investigators and witnesses of strange aerial phenomena have been menaced by mysterious men in black.

The frightening scenario is almost always the same. A UFO investigator or a witness of mysterious aerial phenomena is alone in his home. There is a knock at the door and one or more strange men dressed in black push their way into the witness’s home. On occasion, these MIB wear uniforms, most often U.S. Air Force, and sometimes flash CIA or Secret Service credentials. The intruders are usually described as rather short, dark-complexioned, and somewhat Asian in appearance. They are nearly always male.

The interrogation of the witness begins at once, and the MIB know all the details of the sighting. If the witness happened to photograph the event, they demand the film. They insist on complete cooperation, stating that to do so is for the good of the witness’s country, the world, and the universe. Although menacing in demeanor—described as cold, expressionless, and unfriendly—they also sometimes exhibit weird mannerisms, such overly precise speech, outdated expressions, and laughter at inappropriate times. Some witnesses recall them as appearing to have trouble breathing.

Before they leave, the MIB warn the witness to tell no one of their visit. If the victim is a UFO researcher, they order complete abandonment of investigations.

Before they leave, the MIB warn the witness to tell no one of their visit. If the victim is a UFO researcher, they order complete abandonment of investigations. Violence is often threatened or implied if the witness should disobey their orders.

Ever since organized flying saucer research began in the early 1950s, serious UFO investigators have suffered personal harassment, unusual accidents, and even mysterious deaths. In some cases, sinister voices have whispered threats over the telephone and warned researchers to terminate specific investigations. Official disclaimers have only served to intensify the mystery of the bizarre incidents occurring within the ranks of civilian UFO investigators and instill fear among those who witness flying saucer activity.

According to UFO lore, in September 1953 three agents of such a silencing group made their first in-person visit. Albert K. Bender, who had organized an international flying-saucer bureau, was their target. UFOlogist Gray Barker said that Bender received data he felt provided the missing pieces for a theory concerning the origin of flying saucers. Bender wrote down his thesis and sent it to a friend he trusted. When the three men appeared at Bender's door, one of them held that letter in his hand.

The MIB told Bender that among the many saucer researchers, he had been the one to derive correct answers to the flying-saucer enigma. Then they filled him in on the details. Bender became ill. He was unable to eat for three days. He told fellow UFO investigators Dominick Lucchesi and August C. Roberts that when people found out the truth about flying saucers, there would be dramatic changes in all things. Science, especially, would suffer a major blow. Political structures would topple. Mass confusion would reign.

In 1962 Bender published *Flying Saucers and the Three Men*, an account that confused serious UFO researchers, as it told of Bender's astral projection to a secret underground saucer base in Antarctica manned by male, female, and bisexual creatures. UFO investigators questioned whether Bender's experiences were perhaps of a psychic nature or he had deliberately contrived to hide the true nature of his silencing.

Within a few months after the three men allegedly confronted Bender, Edgar R. Jarrold, organizer of the Australian Flying Saucer Bureau, and Harold H. Fulton, head of Civilian Saucer Investigation of New Zealand, received visits from "mysterious strangers" and subsequently disbanded their organizations. John H. Stuart, a New Zealander, picked up a piece of metal that had fallen from a UFO during a sighting in February 1955. The next night he received a visit from a man dressed in black who relieved him of the gray-white metal.

"I have a feeling that some day there will come a slow knocking at my own door," Gray Barker wrote in *They Knew Too Much about Flying Saucers* (1956). "They will be at your door, too, unless we all get wise and find out who the three men really are."

In 1956 astrophysicist Morris K. Jessup, who had been vitally interested in UFO research, received the first of a series of letters concerning flying saucers, secret navy experiments, disappearing ships, and invisible men. The correspondent signed himself as Carlos Allende. The letters, postmarked from Texas and from Pennsylvania, seemed important enough to the Office of Naval Research to assign a special study group assigned to the mystery. Although official investigation seemed to bog down, Jessup pursued his independent research into the flying-saucer puzzle. The astrophysicist subsequently was found dead in his automobile outside a park in Florida, an alleged suicide.

In the late 1940s Ray Palmer founded *Fate* magazine with Curt Fuller and gave the UFO enigma its first big publicity push. The air force dubbed Palmer the "Father of Flying Saucers" and accused the editor-publisher of having fabricated the whole business to boost sales of his magazine. Palmer was the one researcher who had been in on the UFO mystery from the beginning. In June 1947 Palmer sent businessman-pilot Kenneth Arnold, who "discovered" flying saucers, to Tacoma, Washington. There Arnold became embroiled in an infamous incident which, according to Palmer, "ended in terror and disaster and the deaths of two fine Fourth Air Force secret-service officers."

What became known as the Maury Island Incident began on the afternoon of June 21, 1947, when fisherman Harold A. Dahl and his son saw six large, round aerial objects hovering over the bay off Maury Island, near Tacoma. While they watched, one of the UFOs dumped or sprayed a substance something like molten slag that the fishermen claimed damaged their boat, killed their dog, and nearly killed the two of them. After he had taken his son to be treated at a local hospital, Dahl told his employer, Fred Lee Crisman, about the harrowing experience. Initially Crisman doubted the account, but samples of the mysterious substance emitted by the UFO that Dahl had collected later convinced him. On the morning after his seemingly hostile encounter with a spaceship, Dahl said that he was contacted by a man dressed in black who warned him to speak no more about the UFOs over Maury Island. About the same time, Crisman, who was checking out Dahl's story about the slag, claimed to see a UFO hovering over the bay.

Keel considered the MIB to be professional terrorists who had among their duties the harassment of UFO researchers involved in cases that might reveal too much of the truth.

The Maury Island affair was quickly written off as a hoax by Air Force investigators, but Arnold claimed to have been confronted by at least two nearly omniscient MIB, who thus antedated Bender's visitors by six years.

Howard Menger, an early UFO contactee who claims to have been inside a saucer and to have talked with aliens, said that when he was living in High Bridge, New Jersey, in 1957, two men in dark business suits came to call on him. They displayed authentic-looking credentials and claimed to be agents from a government bureau. They warned Menger to quit talking about flying saucers and to drop his research.

In 1965 Rex Heflin of McMinnville, Oregon, managed to take some highly interesting photos of a UFO while performing his duties with the highway department. A few days later Heflin was visited by a man bearing credentials of the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD). The phony NORAD investigator demanded, and received, Heflin's original series of pictures. They were never returned until, years later, they mysteriously appeared in his mailbox. Analysts still recognize Heflin's photos as among the best ever taken of UFOs.

In April 1966 two Norwalk, Connecticut, schoolboys were pursued by a low-flying UFO. The next day a man appeared at the boys' school and introduced himself to the principal as a representative of a "government agency so secret that he couldn't give the name." The mysterious agent questioned the boys for nearly three hours.

Broadcaster Frank Edwards, now best remembered for his best-selling book *Flying Saucers—Serious Business* (1966) spoke often of an official plot to silence him. Edwards had been conducting a highly successful radio show sponsored by the American Federation of Labor when he began to air stories on flying saucers. He was warned to abandon the subject. Edwards persisted and was given his walking papers. In spite of thousands of letters protesting his firing and the silencing of his UFO reports, his ex-sponsor stood firm. When reporters asked George Meany, president of the AFL, why Edwards had been dropped, Meany answered that it was because he talked too much about flying saucers. Edwards said that he later learned that his constant mention of UFOs had been irritating to the Defense Department, which had brought pressure to bear on the AFL.

In 1966 the researcher and author John Keel stated his opinion that the MIB are the "intelligence arm of a large and possibly hostile group." Keel considered the MIB to be professional terrorists who had among their duties the harassment of UFO researchers involved in cases that might reveal too much of the truth. Keel's pursuit of the silencers led him to uncover some extreme cases of personal abuse in which certain contactees or investigators have been kidnapped by three men in a black car. The abductors subjected their victims to some sort of brainwashing technique that left them in a state of nausea, mental confusion, or even amnesia lasting for several days.

In Keel's opinion, UFO researchers were wasting their time chasing lights in the sky and worrying about air force involvement in the flying saucer enigma. In his address to the 1967 Congress of Scientific UFOlogists in New York, Keel told of his personal mission to track down the silencers, and he advised UFO investigators to shift their attention from the vehicles to the occupants. In his opinion, the menace was not in our skies, but on the ground, and spreading like a disease across the country and the world. "The UFOs don't want us to know where they are from," Keel stated. "They have been lying to contactees since 1897"—a reference to the mysterious Airship of 1897 widely reported in that year.

In response to the controversy stirred up by Keel and other investigators over MIB, Col. George P. Freeman, the Pentagon spokesman for Project Blue Book, was quoted as saying, "We have checked a number of these cases, and these men are not connected with the Air Force in any way. It has never been within the line of duty of any government agency to threaten a private citizen or to enter his home without a search warrant. No government agent is empowered to demand surrender of private property by any law-abiding citizen." Freeman went on to say that by posing as military officers and government agents, the silencers were committing a federal offense.

In recent years, encounters with the MIB have decreased. They have even been the basis for multiple science-fiction comedies that turn the MIB into good-natured heroes keeping the intergalactic peace and protecting the interests of aliens living secretly on Earth.

Although reports of the mysterious interrogators have diminished, they have not ceased altogether. UFO researchers and witnesses still report bizarre, perhaps paranormal, experiences after sighting unusual aerial activity. And some witnesses still insist that they were terrified by individuals dressed in black who paid them a visit and threatened their lives if they didn't forget the UFO phenomena that they observed.

If the silencers are perpetrating a hoax, who is doing it and why? Are they, as some investigators believe, agents from another world who labor to spread confusion and fear? Are they agents from a top-secret government agency which knows the answer to the flying-saucer enigma and has been commissioned to keep the truth from the American public? Or, as some researchers have theorized, are they representatives an older terrestrial race that has survived and become more technically advanced as it thrives in some remote region of Earth?

Whoever the silencers may be, they clearly wish the nations of the world to remain ignorant of the facts about flying saucers. Perhaps they reason that the more ignorant we are of the true nature of the dangers which face us, the less able we will be to deal with the inevitable confrontation with an alien race and the more rapidly we will allow ourselves to become subject to a race or culture that considers itself superior to *Homo sapiens*.

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MK-ULTRA

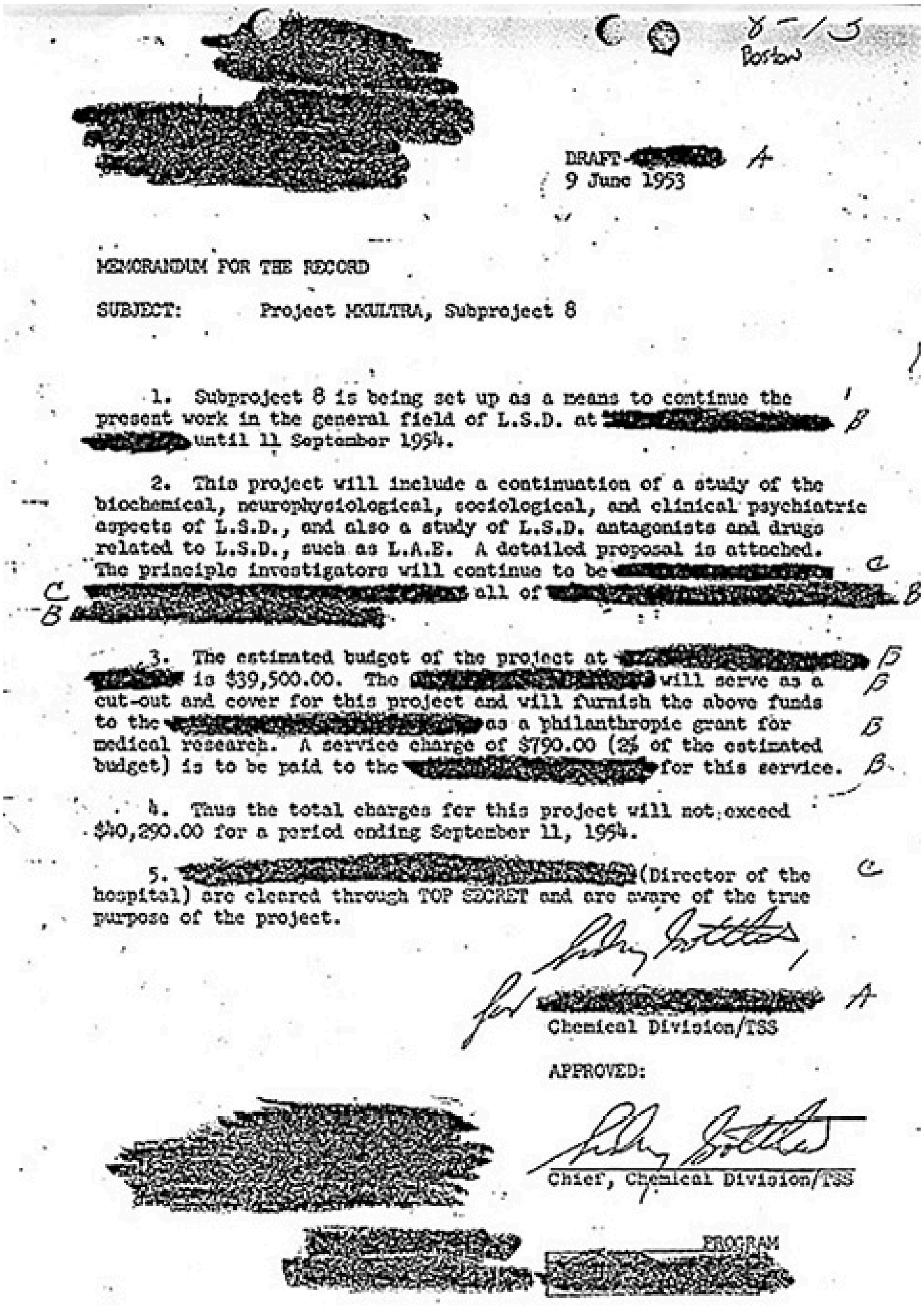
This CIA mind-control project was so horrible that all records were ordered destroyed.

In 1964 Richard Helms, director of the CIA, ordered records of all 150 individual projects of MK-Ultra destroyed. The program, initiated on the orders of CIA chief Allen Dulles on April 13, 1953, and conducted by Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, had mind control as its principal objective. Rumors and half-truths about new mind-control techniques being used by Soviet, Chinese, and North Korean interrogators on U.S. prisoners of war panicked the CIA into a search for its own sure-fire method of questioning captives.

Many researchers believe that the "MK" in MK-Ultra stood for "Mind Kontrolle," with a German spelling of the English word *control* because many German doctors who were masters of mind control were snatched by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), later CIA, to work on a number of insidious projects. Hitler's chief of intelligence against the Russians, General Reinhard Gehlen, arrived in Washington in 1945 and spent months working with William "Wild Bill" Donovan, director of the OSS, and Allen Dulles to reorganize the American intelligence program into the Central Intelligence Group in 1946, then, in 1947, the Central Intelligence Agency under Dulles's leadership. General Gehlen shared the behavior-modification research of Dr. Josef Mengele at Auschwitz and the brainwashing experiments conducted at Dachau with hypnosis and mescaline.

In 1947 the U.S. Navy developed Project Chatter in response to the Soviets' supposed success with "truth drugs." In 1950 Allen Dulles approved Project Bluebird to discover mind-control methods; in 1951, Bluebird was renamed Artichoke, assigned the problem of utilizing hypnosis and drugs to resist interrogation. The CIA went on to conduct hundreds of experiments with hypnosis and with mescaline, peyote, and other hallucinogenic drugs before they had some success with LSD in MK-Ultra in 1953.

At first "acid" seemed to fill the bill. Dr. Gottlieb used the drug himself as a frequent guinea pig. It has been said that Gottlieb, born with a clubfoot and a stutter, compensated by becoming an expert folk dancer and earning his Ph.D. from Cal Tech. In order to rush the studies of how effective LSD might be on a wide variety of individuals with vastly differing personalities, Gottlieb ordered experiments on mostly unsuspecting CIA agents, military personnel, prostitutes, mental patients, and members of the general public. Gottlieb's stated purpose was to experiment on "people who could not fight back."



[redacted]

8-13
Boston

DRAFT-[redacted] A
9 June 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Project MKULTRA, Subproject 8

1. Subproject 8 is being set up as a means to continue the present work in the general field of L.S.D. at [redacted] B until 11 September 1954.

2. This project will include a continuation of a study of the biochemical, neurophysiological, sociological, and clinical psychiatric aspects of L.S.D., and also a study of L.S.D. antagonists and drugs related to L.S.D., such as L.A.E. A detailed proposal is attached. The principle investigators will continue to be [redacted] C all of [redacted] B

3. The estimated budget of the project at [redacted] B is $39,500.00. The [redacted] B will serve as a cut-out and cover for this project and will furnish the above funds to the [redacted] B as a philanthropic grant for medical research. A service charge of $790.00 (2% of the estimated budget) is to be paid to the [redacted] B for this service.

4. Thus the total charges for this project will not exceed $40,290.00 for a period ending September 11, 1954.

5. [redacted] C (Director of the hospital) are cleared through TOP SECRET and are aware of the true purpose of the project.

Sidney Gottlieb
for [redacted] A
Chemical Division/TSS

APPROVED:

[redacted]

Sidney Gottlieb
Chief, Chemical Division/TSS

[redacted] PROGRAM [redacted]

The 1953 letter signed by Dr. Sidney Gottlieb approving the MKUltra LSD project.

Further research by Gottlieb involved experiments with LSD that seemed more like torture than scientific inquiry. On occasion Gottlieb would lock volunteers in sensory deprivation chambers while they were on LSD. In one extreme case volunteers were dosed with LSD for seventy-seven days straight. Because MK-Ultra's records were destroyed, there is no existing document revealing how many of these unfortunate individuals were driven insane.

It does appear, though, that at least one of them died. In November 1953, a man plummeted to his death from a room at the Statler Hotel in midtown Manhattan. It turned out later that the man, Frank Olson, was a scientist originally studying biological warfare at Fort Detrick, Maryland but who later joined the CIA and became involved with Gottlieb and MK-Ultra. He became increasingly concerned about what he saw, talking about seeing one volunteer soldier died after being dosed with sarin. At a party in November 1953, Olson and other researchers were unwittingly dosed with LSD by Gottlieb. He appeared confused and anxious afterward. Several days later, he either fell or was pushed from the hotel window.

An alleged MK-Ultra document dated May 5, 1955 that found its way into wide circulation has specific orders to find a mind-altering substance that would accomplish the following effects:

- Induce illogical thinking and impulsiveness to the point where the recipient would be discredited in public.
- Produce the signs and symptoms of recognized diseases in a reversible way so that they may be used for malingering, and so on.
- Render the use of hypnosis easier or otherwise enhance its usefulness.
- Enhance the ability of individuals to withstand privation, torture, and coercion during interrogation and "brainwashing."
- Produce amnesia for events preceding and during [the drug's] use.
- Produce shock and confusion over extended periods of time.
- Be able to be used surreptitiously.
- Produce physical disablement, such as paralysis of the legs.
- Produce pure euphoria with no subsequent let-down.
- Alter personality structure in such a way that the tendency of the recipient to become dependent upon another person is enhanced.
- Cause mental confusion of such a type that the individual under its influence will find it difficult to maintain a fabrication under questioning.
- Lower the ambition and general working efficiency when administered in undetectable amounts.

There is no evidence that MK-Ultra or later CIA experiments actually succeeded in accomplishing many of the above mind-control techniques, but since the files of the program were destroyed, no one can definitely say that MK-Ultra didn't succeed in numerous instances of mind control or in the creation of zombielike assassins.

In 1964 MK-Ultra was renamed MKSEARCH, supposedly a refined search for the perfect truth serum. However, some investigators claim that MKSEARCH was actually one of the more insidious of all the secret projects being conducted at that time. Based on some of the initial research of Gottlieb and Dr. Donald Ewen Cameron, who had begun his career with World War II-era CIA precursor the OSS studying the experiments of Nazi psychiatrists on concentration camp prisoners, the project required "expendables" in order to be effective. By "expendables" the researchers meant subjects whose disappearance, should they happen to die during the experiments, was unlikely to arouse suspicion.

MKSEARCH tests would be carried out at CIA safe houses in such cities as Washington, New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. The experiments would focus on the exploitation of human weaknesses and the destabilization of the human personality. In large cities, it was suggested, finding "expendables" who would not be missed would be much easier than in smaller towns or rural areas. The subjects of the experiments would be exposed to tests designed to create disturbances of behavior, alterations of sex patterns, and stimulation of aberrations, which could all be used in the process of interrogations and the obtaining of information.

Gottlieb founded two separate laboratories, neither of which was aware of the other's existence or the nature of the project. A private civilian research facility in Baltimore was assigned to find a chemical that could mimic death by carbon dioxide poisoning and another that could arouse a desire for sex. The other facility was the Army Biological Laboratory at Fort Detrick, Maryland, which had been working on a similar project, MKNaomi, since 1952. Gottlieb also allocated $85,000 to Dr. Harold Abramson, an immunologist at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, to conduct experiments in disturbance memory.

There is no clear evidence that MKSEARCH ever conducted its research on "expendables," for in 1972 Richard Helms, director of the CIA, ordered records of all 150 individual projects of MK-Ultra destroyed. Senate hearings in the mid-1970s and a trove of documents discovered in 1977 help shine more light on this dark period in American history which has spawned so many conspiracy theories since.

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MOLLY MAGUIRES

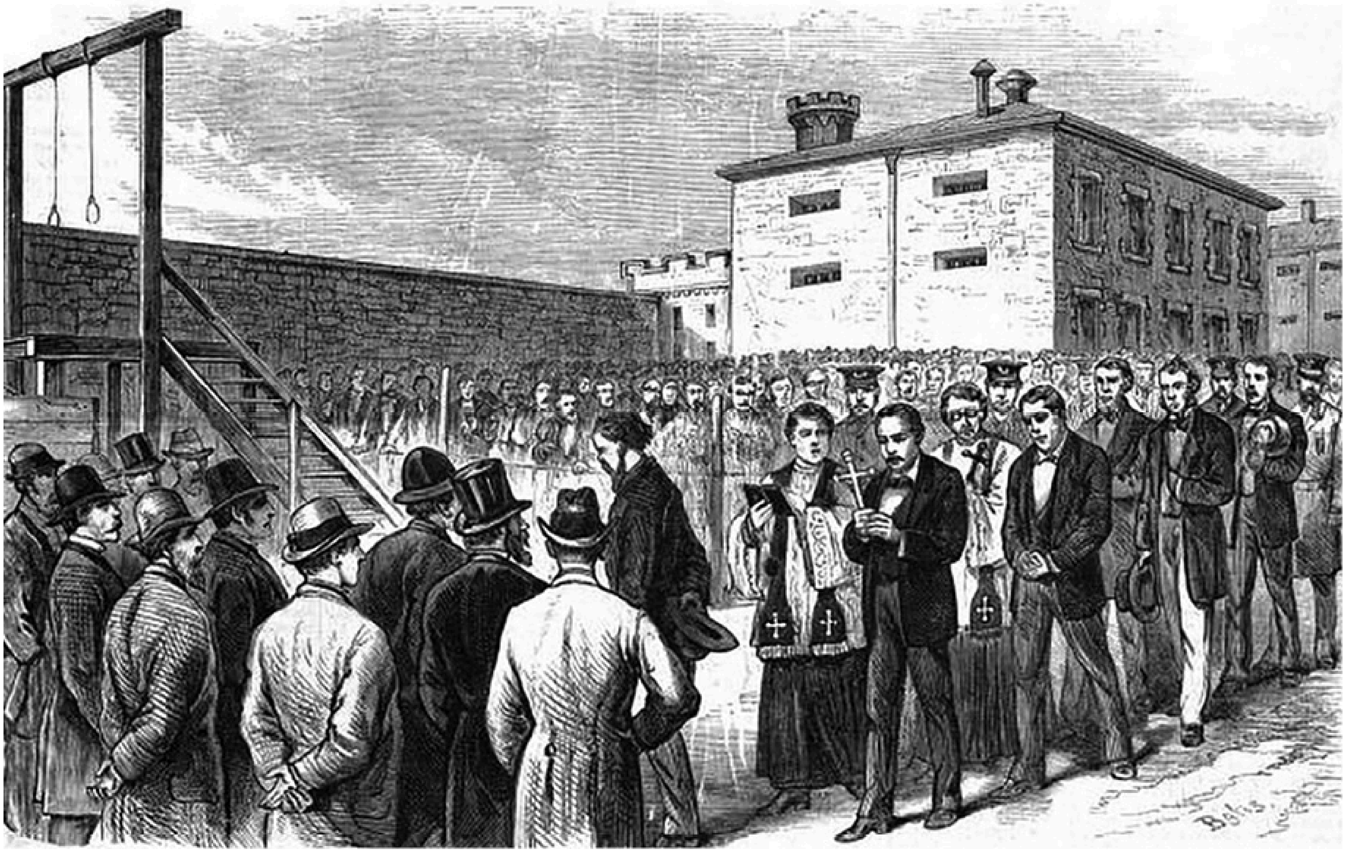
Did a secret society of Irish radicals act as assassins in nineteenth-century labor disputes?

Dramatic increases in Irish immigration to the United States in the early and mid-nineteenth century caused a significant backlash. This came particularly from native-born Protestants who feared that not only were the new arrivals suspiciously Catholic (and thus potentially more loyal to the Vatican than their adopted country) but also dangerously political.

This latter fear led to the creation of a conspiracy theory about a secret society of Irish radicals known as the Molly Maguires.

Back in Ireland, during the unrest that resulted from the Great Famine of the 1840s, agitators like the Molly Maguires—mostly young men known for dressing in women's clothes—made a name for themselves by protesting and intimidating unjust landlords. In the United States, word spread that the "Mollies" were leading the Irish workers protesting unfair working conditions.

Things came to a head in the 1860s and 1870s in the coal mines of Pennsylvania following a string of sabotages and apparent assassinations of mine owners and supervisors that were blamed on purported Mollies, who were targeted by vigilante killings. After Pinkerton detective James McParland infiltrated the Mollies, stories spread of a wide-ranging secret network (which McParland believed eased the Ancient Order of Hibernians fraternal association as a front) that threatened radical labor violence all across the country.



An 1877 newspaper illustration depicts six convicted Molly Maguires being marched to their hanging.

A series of trials that started in 1875 and led to several men being hung were later revealed to be highly biased and based on flimsy or outright false evidence.

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MARILYN MONROE

The official ruling that Marilyn Monroe died by her own hand has never been accepted by her millions of fans or by conspiracy theorists.

When Marilyn Monroe was found dead on the morning of August 5, 1962, her death was immediately enshrouded with mystery and controversy, and she will always be remembered along with such movie stars as Jean Harlow, Lupe Velez, George Reeves, Bruce Lee, and Natalie Wood, whose deaths are clouded by allegations of suicide or homicide.

Few of Harlow's fans accepted the official studio decree of death due to uremic poisoning. Those who vicariously savored the erotic cinematic adventures of Lupe Velez were reluctant to acknowledge the Mexican spitfire's forlorn suicide note. Loyal fans continue to believe that television "Superman" George Reeves was the victim of murder, rather than depression. And followers of real-life superman Bruce Lee "know" that he was assassinated by the secret Kung Fu society of the Black Hand. The official account of the drowning of Natalie Wood, according to her admirers, simply contains too many contradictions and unacceptable elements to support a finding of accidental death.

Although Marilyn Monroe's fits of temperament and bouts of depression were well publicized and a drug overdose would seem a likely cause of death, the final verdict that she died by her own hand has never been acceptable to millions of her devoted fans or to hundreds of skeptical investigators. Those who firmly express their doubts that the actress committed suicide have suggested that she may have been murdered to silence her accounts of steamy sexual affairs with no less than the president of the United States, John F. Kennedy, and his brother Robert, the nation's attorney general.

Marilyn Monroe, seen here in 1953, was one of the most glamorous movies stars of the 1950s and '60s. The fact that she struggled with depression did not convince many fans that she truly committed suicide in 1962.

Around 3:00 A.M. on August 5, 1962, Monroe's housekeeper, Eunice Murray, noticed that there was still light in the actress's bedroom and decided to inquire why she was not yet asleep. Murray's concern grew when she found that the bedroom door was locked and she was unable to receive any type of response from her employer.

Summoned by Murray, Monroe psychiatrist, Dr. Ralph Greenson, arrived at the actress's Spanish-style bungalow in the Brentwood section of Los Angeles in less than half an hour. After his own unsuccessful attempt to rouse Monroe by rapping loudly on the bedroom door, Greenson grabbed a poker from the fireplace and used it to smash a bedroom window. He found his famous patient lying naked in bed, covered with a blanket and a sheet. She clutched the telephone receiver in a lifeless hand.

Dr. Hyman Engelberg, the actress's personal physician, arrived within the hour and pronounced the cinematic goddess officially dead. It was Dr. Engelberg who had prescribed the sleeping medications on which she had apparently overdosed. Every reader of movie fan magazines was well aware of Monroe's celebrated bouts of insomnia. On this fateful evening, her wish for peaceful sleep had been ultimately fulfilled.

Before 5:00 A.M. Detective Sgt. R. E. Byron and two police officers had examined the death room and the entire house and found nothing that indicated any act of violence perpetrated upon the deceased. They noted the twelve to fifteen bottles of various medicines clustered on a night table near the star's bed.

Some of these individuals speculate that Monroe was going to discuss such topics as her relationship with Bobby, the Bay of Pigs, and how the Kennedys had used the Mafia.

Two deputy coroners arrived to wrap Monroe's body in a pale blue blanket and strap it onto a stretcher. The corpse was placed in a station wagon and transported to the Westwood Village Mortuary. Later it was transferred to the county morgue for the coroner's inquest and the official ruling regarding the cause of death—an overdose of barbiturates, a possible suicide. The reigning love goddess of the Hollywood screen was dead at the age of thirty-six.

Since Monroe's death, numerous books, plays, motion pictures, and television productions have presented possible scenarios in which one of the nation's most powerful families may have ordered the death of one of the most popular actresses in the movies. An almost equal number of presentations have protested the outrageousness of accusing the Kennedy family of having Monroe killed in order to eliminate a potential scandal. The Kennedy defenders remind us of the actress's monumental temper tantrums, her much-publicized bouts of depression, her apparent emotional instability.

According to a number of Monroe's friends, she had planned to call a press conference for Monday, August 6, 1962. Some of these individuals speculate that Monroe was going to discuss such topics as her relationship with Bobby, the Bay of Pigs, and how the Kennedys had used the Mafia.

Jeanne Carmen, a friend of Monroe's, was interviewed on a *Reporters Special Edition* television program entitled "Marilyn—A Case for Murder." According to Carmen, Monroe "was going to talk to the press the following day or on Monday and people might have been desperate." On the same program Monroe's former husband Bob Slatzer said that she "told me on Friday evening prior to her death, 'If Bobby doesn't call me, I'm going to call a press conference on Monday morning, and I am going to blow the lid off this whole damned thing!'" And investigative reporter Krista Bradford stated on that same show that Carmen and John Danoff (a private detective who had bugged Monroe's home at her request) "reported that Marilyn had told them that if Bobby Kennedy did not make a commitment to her, she would reveal her involvement with him and his brother, John Kennedy. She had threatened to make the announcement on August 6, a day after she died." (August 5 was the legally recorded date of her death.)

On that last night of Marilyn Monroe's life, Peter Lawford called about 7:45 to invite her to a party. According to the actor, who was married to Patricia Kennedy, sister of John and Robert, Monroe sounded heavily drugged and finally managed to mumble that Lawford should say good-bye for her to his wife, to the president, and to himself. Monroe received several more calls that night, including one from Jose Bolanos, an alleged sometime lover, at about 9:30. Bolanos claimed that she told him she was about to reveal something that would be shocking to him and the entire world. When he attempted to question her further, she set down the phone without hanging up, explaining that she heard a disturbance at her door. She never returned to the telephone.

Eunice Murray and her son-in-law Norman Jeffries were at the house the night of Monroe's death, and Jeffries told Donald Wolfe, author of *The Last Days of Marilyn Monroe* (1998), that Robert Kennedy and two unknown men came to the door between 9:30 and 10 and ordered them to leave. Murray and Jeffries went to a neighbor's home and waited until they saw the men leave about 10:30. According to Jeffries, when they returned to Monroe's home, they saw her lying naked, face down on her bed, holding a telephone.

Eunice Murray called for an ambulance and then summoned Dr. Greenson. While they were awaiting medical assistance, Jeffries said, Lawford and Monroe's press agent, Pat Newcomb, arrived at the house. According to Jeffries, they were in a state of shock.

Ambulance driver Ken Hunter arrived in the early morning hours and stated that he found Monroe in a coma, apparently due to an overdose of sleeping pills. He told Anthony Summers (*The Secret Lives of Marilyn Monroe*) that she was taken to Santa Monica Hospital, where she died. Summers theorizes that Monroe's body was returned to her home in order to implement the cover-up.

Donald Wolfe interviewed one of Monroe's neighbors, Elizabeth Pollard, who said that she was playing cards with a group of friends when they saw Robert Kennedy walk into Monroe's home with two unidentified men, one of whom was carrying a black medical case. Elizabeth and her friends recognized Kennedy immediately.

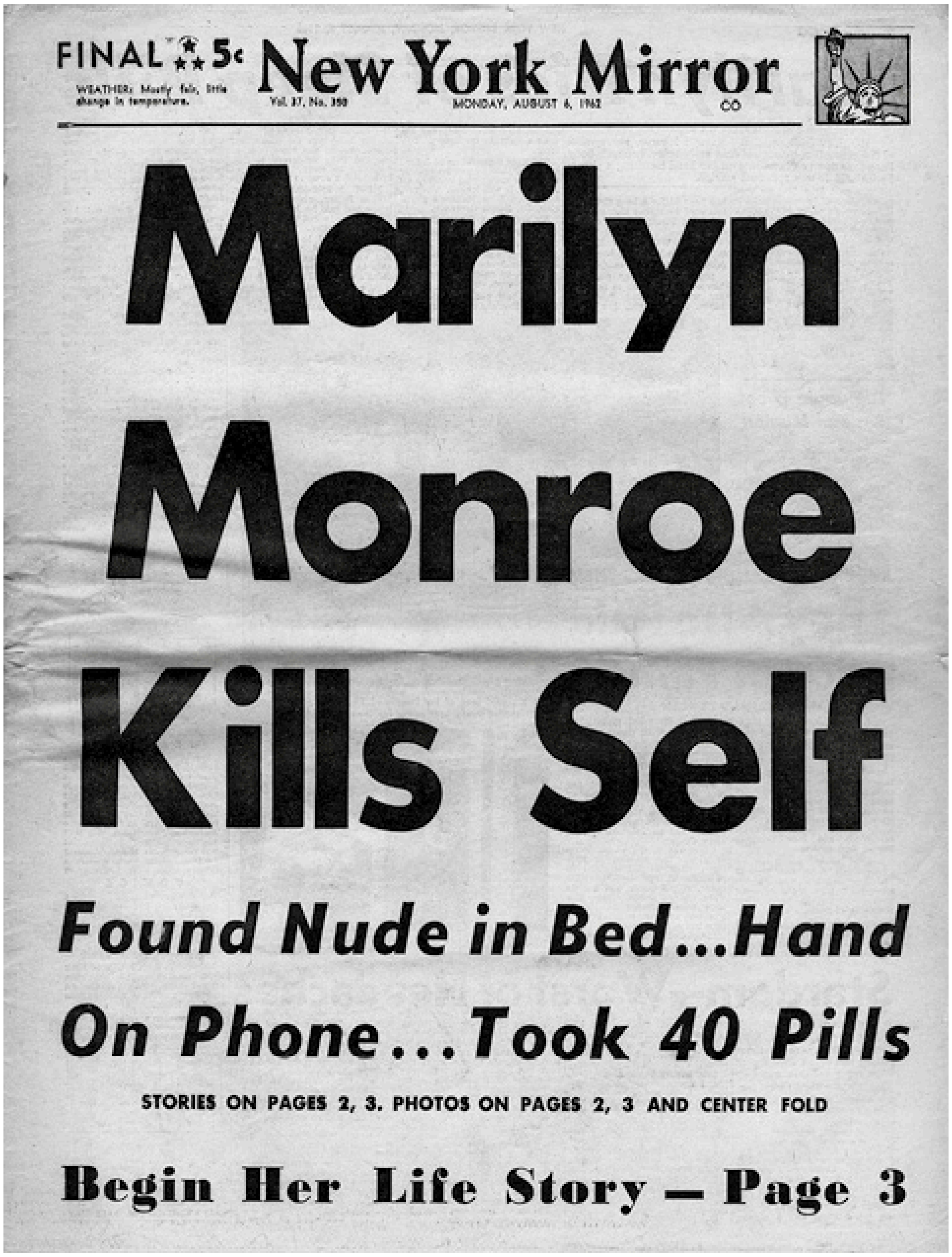
At 4:24 A.M. on August 5, Sgt. Jack Clemmons of the West Los Angeles Police Department received a call from Dr. Hyman Engelberg that Monroe had committed suicide. When Clemmons arrived at the house, Engelberg, Greenson, and Eunice Murray were present. Clemmons recalled for Wolfe that Monroe was lying face down on a pillow, her arms by her side with the right one slightly bent, and her legs were stretched out straight.

Clemmons was skeptical of suicide upon even cursory examination of the scene. He had investigated numerous suicides and, he told Wolfe, "contrary to the common conception, an overdose of sleeping tablets causes victims to suffer convulsions and vomiting before they die in a contorted position."

The preliminary autopsy was conducted by Dr. Thomas Noguchi, and later Coroner Theodore Curphey announced the finding that the actress had died from an overdose of barbiturates. The official conclusion was that there was no physical evidence of foul play.

Conspiracy theorists see a number of possible scenarios that point to the murder of Marilyn Monroe:

- Monroe had an affair with President John F. Kennedy. JFK had quite a track record of affairs with beautiful women, so it is likely that he would indulge himself with one of the sexiest movie stars of that era. Peter Lawford recalled that Monroe had unrealistic ideas that the president would divorce Jackie and make Monroe the First Lady of the United States. Monroe's letters and telephone calls to the White House were becoming enough of an embarrassment to the administration that someone might have decided it was time to end the relationship permanently.
- Monroe was having affairs with both of the Kennedy brothers, and she was in a position to bring an unprecedented scandal to the White House, tattling to the nation that she was sleeping with both the president and the attorney general.
- Robert Kennedy arrived at Monroe's house that night in the company of two Secret Service agents to inform her personally that Jack was ending their relationship. While JFK is rumored to have had affairs with countless women, Robert is not. He may have been doing a favor for his brother by personally delivering a message that could not be put in writing. After Robert and the agents left, Monroe became extremely despondent and took an overdose of sleeping pills.



FINAL ★★★ 5¢ **New York Mirror**

WEATHER: Mostly fair, little change in temperature.

Vol. 37, No. 350 MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 1962 CO

Marilyn Monroe Kills Self

Found Nude in Bed...Hand On Phone...Took 40 Pills

STORIES ON PAGES 2, 3. PHOTOS ON PAGES 2, 3 AND CENTER FOLD

Begin Her Life Story – Page 3

The front page of the New York Daily Mirror *headlines the tragic death of a superstar. Conspiracy theories did not take long to develop after Monroe died.*

- Monroe was collateral damage. Sam Giancana, the Chicago mob boss who has been implicated in conspiracies such as the JFK assassination, was reportedly furious at Robert's campaign against organized crime. He ordered a hit on Monroe as a warning to Robert.

As Donald Wolfe states in *The Last Days of Marilyn Monroe*, "Marilyn Monroe was in a position to bring down the presidency"; she had JFK's "notes and letters and was privy to Kennedy's involvement with Sam Giancana." Moreover, according to Wolfe, "That the Kennedy brothers had discussed national security matters with the film star added to an astonishing array of indiscretions."

And of such indiscretions are conspiracy theories hatched—theories of murder that tend to grow stronger with the passing of years since Monroe died.

In his book *UFOs and the Murder of Marilyn Monroe* (2011), Dr. Donald R. Burleson cited a CIA memo issued on August 3, 1962, the day before Monroe's death, expressing the agency's extreme displeasure over the fact that the Kennedy brothers had been indiscreet in discussing highly classified information with the actress. Burleson contends that Monroe had written down details of the President's visit to a secret air base to witness the debris retrieved from the Roswell UFO crash and the bodies of the alien crew. When the Kennedys began distancing themselves from the actress, she threatened to tell about the government cover-up of alien visitation, the "secret of secrets." When a wiretap of Monroe's telephone revealed her plans to hold a press conference in which she would "tell all," Attorney General Robert Kennedy fearfully directed the CIA to terminate the actress

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MONTAUK PROJECT

This incredible project involved mind control, a Nazi secret society, extraterrestrials, the Philadelphia Experiment, and travel through time and space.

The old Montauk Air Force Station is situated on the even older navy air base Camp Hero, located on the northeast tip of Long Island on Highway 27. There is a state park there, as well as the empty shells of buildings and barracks. The old base is still listed by the army as a storage site for chemical weapons, and there are tunnels beneath it filled with water—and according to some, the skeletal remains of hundreds of young males.

How did these skeletons end up in tunnels under an old military base? Traditionally, Camp Hero was built on a sacred Indian burial ground—but these are not the remains of Native Americans. Esoterically, some researchers say that Montauk is a planetary energy point, linked to Mars and Egypt and legends of Atlantis. But neither are the bones those of ancient Atlanteans.

One story has it that by 1954, covert branches within the U.S. government and other superpowers had cut a deal with representatives from extraterrestrial intelligences to barter the ETs' superior scientific and technological knowledge in exchange for access to certain of our planet's mineral deposits. In addition, the aliens were allowed to conduct various experiments on "people who made no genuine contributions of society" or "who would not be missed." The skeletons beneath the old Montauk Air Force Station are the last vestiges of street people, runaways, homosexual males, and stray kids who, if their disappearances were noted at all, were marked down as "missing."

An alternate explanation of the skeletons in the tunnels under the old base is that they are all that remains of hundreds of bright young people were drawn into secret government projects in ESP, mind control, time travel, and out-of-body experiences. According to alleged eyewitnesses and survivors of the experiments, the project at Montauk was controlled by alien intelligences, whose cruel mind manipulations drove some of our best and brightest young people to insanity and suicide. Others were projected into wormholes in time and space, never to return.

According to Preston Nichols, while he was working for a Long Island defense contractor and researching people with psychic abilities, he traced disruptive radio signals to the Montauk Air Force Station and began an exhaustive period of research that gradually revealed, to his astonishment, that he had been involved in secret projects on the base. Somehow he had survived on two separate timelines, one at Montauk, the other at a different location.

Nichols had no sooner made this discovery than, in 1985, he met Duncan Cameron, a man with highly developed psychic abilities. Proceeding cautiously, Nichols learned that Cameron had been the primary psychic in the Montauk experiments with time travel and had also been aboard the *Eldridge* during the ill-fated Philadelphia Experiment in 1943. Duncan had been in the crew during that experiment in invisibility, together with his brother Edward, whom he now recognized as electronic engineer Al Bielek, who also claimed to be a survivor of the 1943 secret navy experiment.

The Montauk Project, they now understood, had been inspired by Nazi secret societies and their research into eugenics, mind control, and extraterrestrial communication.

The Montauk Project, they now understood, had been inspired by Nazi secret societies and their research into eugenics, mind control, and extraterrestrial communication. The Order of the Black Sun and many of its teachings had been incorporated into the project, as well as mysteries of the ancient alchemists and the sex magic ceremonies of Aleister Crowley.

As they expanded their research, Nichols and Cameron saw clearly that the Montauk Project had been terminated when, on August 12, 1983, a time portal was opened from that date back to the time of the Philadelphia Experiment. Cameron recalled sitting in a special device that was covered with crystals and bizarre radio receivers. The aliens and the secret government agents were using his psychic energy to open the time portal. However, Cameron realized that these conspirators wished to use such access to time travel for evil purposes, so in order to save the future, he set free a giant beast from his subconscious that ran rampant and destroyed the Montauk Project. All personnel fled the base and abandoned the buildings. All air shafts and entrances to the vast underground facilities were filled with cement.

Those who managed to survive the experiments in mind control and time travel at Montauk have been left with the understanding that reality is more complex than they have been taught and that the significance of Earth in time and space is far beyond the concepts of linear existence.

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MOON MYSTERIES

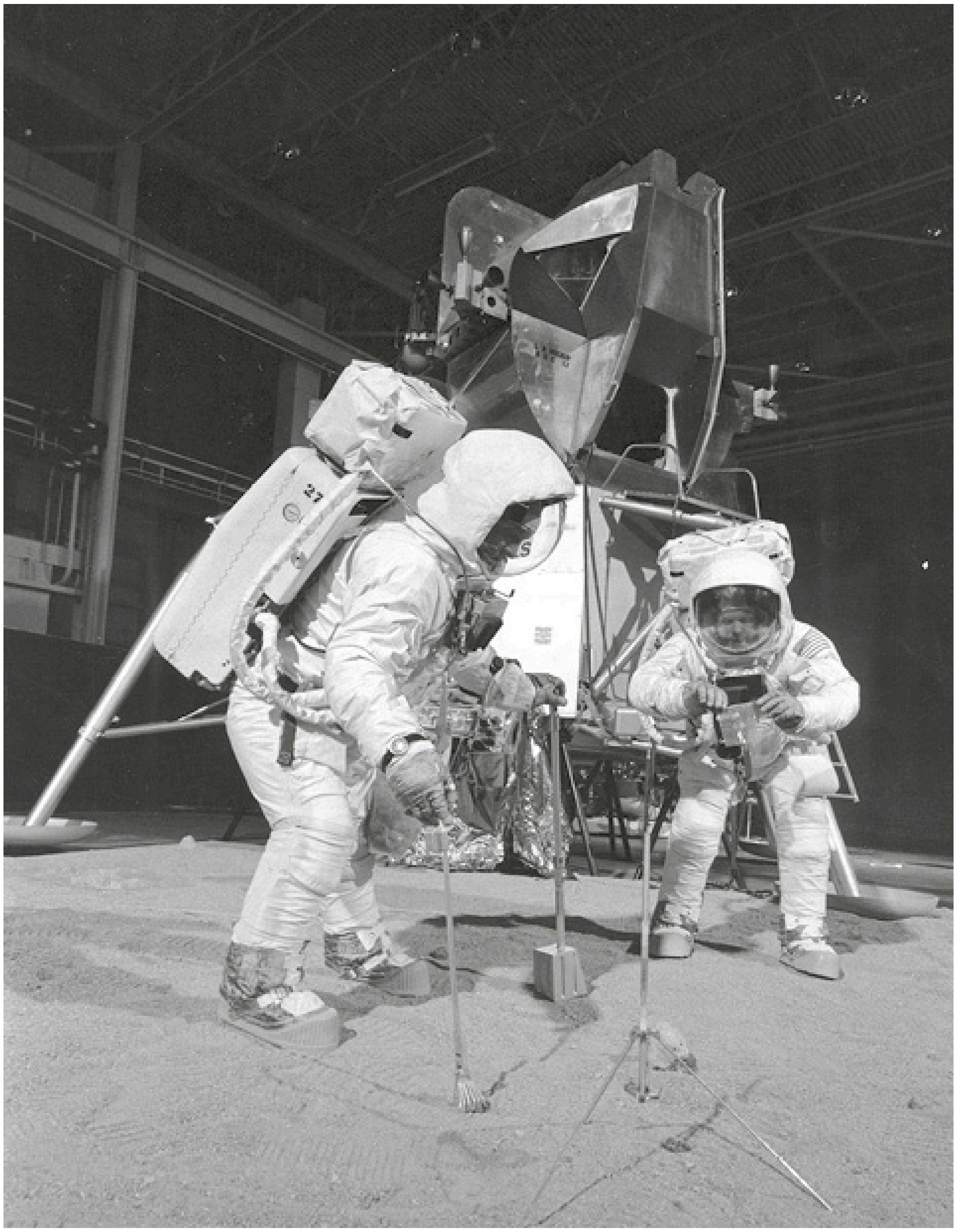
Whether our astronauts really went to the moon is beside the point. Someone is there and has been for hundreds of years.

One of the favorite conspiracy theories of recent years is that NASA faked the moon landings of the 1960s. The astronauts did not land on the moon at all. The whole mission was created in a Hollywood studio. In fact, Hollywood even made a movie, *Capricorn One*, to show how it was done.

Other conspiracy theorists point out that there are far greater mysteries on and about the moon than stressing over whether we really sent *our* astronauts there. What about the alien bases on the moon and *their* UFOnauts?

NASA whistle-blower Richard C. Hoagland, a leading contributor of controversial astronomical theories, charged the space agency with a conspiracy to cover up the discovery of ruins and various artifacts on the moon that would change the history of Earth as we know it. Hoagland claims to have unearthed a 1960 NASA-commissioned report by the Brookings Institution recommending that any future discoveries of alien life on the moon be kept from the public in order not to disturb the evolutionary flow of twentieth-century civilization.

The famed astronomer Carl Sagan once theorized that if extraterrestrial beings had come to observe Earth, they would quite likely have established bases on the moon and would logically have placed their main installations on the “dark side” to keep them safe from probing earthly eyes. Other researchers suggest that if there are alien bases on the moon, they have probably been there for thousands, if not millions, of years.



Astronauts Buzz Aldrin Jr. (left) and Neil Armstrong are shown training on a mock-up of the Moon in this NASA photo. For years, conspiracy theorists have said that similar Hollywood-style sets were used to fake the historic landing.

As early as September 7, 1820, during a lunar eclipse, French astronomers reported strange objects, separated by uniform distances, moving in straight lines and with military precision away from the moon's surface. A similar procession of mysterious objects was seen on August 7, 1869, during a solar eclipse with the sun's masking glare removed. In 1874 a Czechoslovakian astronomer claimed that he had seen a dazzling white object traverse the disc of the moon, then leave the surface and travel out into space.

Vladimir Terziski, who has specialized in a study of Nazi rocketry, says that scientists from Germany's Third Reich landed on the moon as early as 1942.

In 1912 an English astronomer reported that he had seen an “immensely black object about 250 miles long and 150 miles wide” on the moon. He speculated that he might have sighted the shadow thrown by something colossal in size moving above the moon. In that same year, during a lunar eclipse, both French and British astronomers stated that they had witnessed something like a “superb rocket” shoot away from the surface of the moon.

The crater Aristarchus is the single brightest spot on the moon, and ever since Galileo began gazing at it with his telescope in 1610, observers have reported a wide variety of flares and lights issuing from that area. Plato, the darkest spot on the moon, has also been a popular area for changing light patterns to appear. Strange geometrical formations of lights, including luminous triangles and grids, have consistently manifested there.

Lights that blink as if sending signals constitute a common lunar phenomenon. On October 20, 1824, European telescopes detected intermittent flashes throughout the night from a dark region near Aristarchus. On July 4, 1832, the astronomer Thomas W. Webb observed a series of flashing dots and dashes, suggestive of Morse code. In 1873, after conducting an exhaustive study of the blinking lights on the moon, the Royal Astronomical Society of Britain issued the verdict that the “coded” lunar flashes were “intelligent attempts by an unknown race on the Moon to signal Earth.”

A peculiar facet of the blinking lights is that most of them occur in the northern hemisphere of the moon, suggesting to some UFO researchers that the extraterrestrial engineers have for some reason found that area to be more suited to expansion.

A very different claim is that the Russians are on the moon and that they, rather than extraterrestrials, may have secretly been mining its resources for many years. On top of that, from time-to-time alleged U.S. Air Force veterans, insisting upon complete anonymity, swear that the United States and the Russians established secret colonies on the moon in 1970—and that expeditionary teams discovered an alien base on its dark side.

Vladimir Terziski, who has specialized in a study of Nazi rocketry, says that scientists from Germany’s Third Reich landed on the moon as early as 1942. In the late 1930s or early 1940s, Terziski insists, Nazi scientists made contact with an alien culture that presented them with advanced technology. He further claims that as soon as the first German landing party touched down on the moon, they began digging and tunneling under the surface. By 1944 the Nazis had their first moon base.

In *We Discovered Alien Bases on the Moon* (1981), a former NASA jet propulsion engineer, Fred Steckling, stated that the public was not being told the full story concerning the astronauts’ visit to our planet’s satellite. David Hatcher Childress’s *Extraterrestrial Archaeology* (1994) continued the quest for more complete revelations from our space program, followed by Cynthia Turnage’s *ET’s Are on the Moon and Mars: The Photographic Evidence* (1998), in which she accuses NASA of erecting a wall of silence to hide the indisputable evidence of extraterrestrial life that has been captured on film. Turnage further suggests that some other government agency may be pressuring NASA’s scientists to cover up all evidence of alien life.

A favorite Moon mystery of conspiracy theorists is the allegation that famed director Stanley Kubrick faked the Apollo Moon landings in exchange for a virtually unlimited budget to film his classic science fiction film *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Kubrick solved the problem of making shots on the surface of the Moon look expansive by employing the cinematic technique of front screen projection (FSP). Long before the days of computer-generated movie magic, the FSP process projected scenes behind actors so it would appear to the camera as if the actors were moving around on the set provided by the FSP. Actors could move around in a vast studio while it appeared that they were laboriously walking on moonlike scenes projected behind them.

Edgar Mitchell, the former astronaut who visited the moon in 1971, has stated that his conversations with people who worked in intelligence agencies and military groups convinced him that the U.S. government has been covering up the truth about UFOs for over fifty years. Mitchell admitted to becoming quite alarmed over revelations that there are humanoids manning craft far superior to those in the arsenal of any nation on Earth. On the other hand, when asked about the possibility of alien bases on the moon, he responded: "The notion that there are structures on Mars or the Moon is bonkers. I can certainly attest to the latter. I've been there."

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MOTHMAN DEATH LIST

Is this weird, red-eyed, winged monster a devil, an angel, or an illusion? Whatever the Mothman may be, seeing it might be hazardous to your health.

On November 15, 1966, two young married couples, the Steve Mallettes and the Roger Scarberrys, were driving through the marshy area near the Ohio River outside of Point Pleasant, West Virginia, when a winged monster, at least seven feet tall with glowing red eyes, loomed up in front of them. Later, they told Deputy Sheriff Millard Halstead that the creature followed them toward Point Pleasant on Route 62 even when their speed approached 100 mph.

When the story the Mallettes and the Scarberrys told achieved local circulation, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wamsley, Marcella Bennett, and Ricky Thomas stepped forward and said that they had seen the giant birdlike creature near the same abandoned TNT plant a few miles north of Point Pleasant. A few days later Thomas Ury said that an enormous flying creature with a wingspan of ten feet had chased his convertible into Point Pleasant at 70 mph.

More witnesses came forward with accounts of their sightings, and the legend of Mothman was born. Although the majority of witnesses described the tall, red-eyed monster as appearing birdlike, the media dubbed the creature "Mothman," because, as writer John A. Keel noted, the *Batman* television series was very popular at the time. Intrigued by the stories, Keel visited Point Pleasant on numerous occasions and learned about the bizarre occurrences associated with Mothman's appearance, including the eerie forecast that some witnesses of the monster had received that the Silver Bridge in Point Pleasant would collapse and many people would be killed as a result. In 1975 Keel wrote in *The Mothman Prophecies* that “there would be many changes in the lives of those touched by” Mothman, and a “few would even commit suicide.”

Researchers of the phenomenon have various theories concerning the large winged monster that haunts the marshy area near the McClintic Wildlife Sanctuary and the abandoned TNT plant north of Point Pleasant. Some say that excited, suggestible witnesses are simply sighting sandhill cranes, large birds indigenous to the area that can reach heights of six feet and achieve wingspans of ten feet. UFO researchers make correlations between bright lights in the sky and the appearances of Mothman. Others suggest that toxic chemicals dumped at the TNT site in World War II may have caused bizarre mutations in wild birds. And then there are those who maintain that Mothman might be a multidimensional intelligence, angelic or demonic, that can warn witnesses of impeding danger—or cause it to happen.

Maintained
By The
Ta-Endie-Wei
Garden Club

In Point Pleasant, West Virginia's Riverfront Park you can visit a life-size statue of the terrifying Mothman.

Cryptozoologist Loren Coleman, author of *Mothman and Other Curious Encounters* (2002), has been keeping tab on the deaths that appear to be associated with the entity. Coleman lists the demises of eighty-five men and women who had some association with Mothman from the 1960s to the present day. As with all of the body counts or death lists that we include in this encyclopedia of conspiracies and secret societies, we add our disclaimer that many of the individuals that we find on such lists may have been elderly, ill, killed in the line of duty, met their demise in accidents totally devoid of nefarious circumstances, or committed suicide of their own free, albeit troubled, will. Some deaths on these lists do seem rather suspicious, and that is why we include them for your own assessment.

The Silver Bridge victims: Coleman's first forty-six victims were those unfortunates killed when, at 5:04 P.M. on December 15, 1967, the bridge at Point Pleasant collapsed during rush hour. Forty-six lives were lost, and forty-four bodies recovered.

Mary Hyre: Hyre was the Point Pleasant correspondent for the Athens, Ohio, newspaper the *Messenger* and became a friend of John A. Keel's who later assisted him in his investigations. The first sighting reported by Hyre occurred when the Scarberrys and Mallettes saw Mothman on November 15, 1966. Exactly thirteen months later, the Silver Bridge collapsed. Twenty-six months later, on February 15, 1970, Hyre died at the age of fifty-four after a four-week illness.

Ivan T. Sanderson: A naturalist, cryptozoologist, and animal expert who appeared on various television programs, Sanderson served as Keel's main consultant on the natural history behind the reports of Mothman. A well-known writer at the time of the Mothman sightings, he was also the director of the New Jersey-based Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained. Sanderson, sixty-two, died on February 19, 1973, of a rapidly spreading cancer.

Gray Barker: Besides John Keel, no other investigator was on the scene of the Mothman sightings as often during 1966 and 1967 as West Virginian Gray Barker. A theatrical film booker based in Clarksburg, West Virginia, Barker became interested in UFOs in 1952. In 1956 he wrote *They Knew Too Much about Flying Saucers*, dealing with the Men in Black. In 1966, when he was investigating Mothman near Point Pleasant, Barker allegedly found a note on his door with this message, "Abandon your research or you will regret [it]. You have been warned." Barker was fifty-nine when he died on December 6, 1984, "after a long series of illnesses," in a Charleston, West Virginia, hospital.

Donald North: Donald I. North, a Point Pleasant native who saw Mothman in the TNT-plant area in the 1990s, died in an automobile crash in 1997.

Jim Keith: Conspiracy author Keith, fifty, died mysteriously on September 7, 1999, during routine knee surgery after falling off the stage at the annual Burning Man pagan arts festival in Nevada. Keith had theorized that Point Pleasant was being used as some kind of testing area.

Ron Bonds: The publisher of most of Jim Keith's books and of John Keel's 1991 reprint of *The Mothman Prophecies*, Ron Bonds, forty-eight, of IllumiNet Press, died under strange circumstances on April 8, 2001, apparently the victim of food poisoning contracted at a Mexican restaurant in Atlanta.

Robin Chaney Pilkington: On October 24, 2001, Marcella Bennett, who was an eyewitness to Mothman on November 16, 1966, lost her daughter, Robin Pilkington, forty-four, to a long illness. Robin's death would signal the start of a wave of witness-relatives' deaths during the time surrounding the motion-picture release of *The Mothman Prophecies*.

Charles Mallette: As the movie on Keel's book began screening on January 25, 2002, the original witnesses, the Mallettes, were attending a funeral in Point Pleasant. Stephen

Mallette, one of the first four witnesses of Mothman, was mourning the passing of his brother, Charlie, due to a brain tumor.

Gary Ury: On February 15, 2002, soon after the town was bustling with Mothman promotions and attention, one of Point Pleasant's better-known Mothman eyewitnesses, Tom Ury suddenly lost his fifty-two-year-old brother Gary.

Ted Tannebaum: Tannebaum, sixty-eight, the executive producer of The Mothman Prophecies, died of cancer on March 7, 2002, in Chicago.

Aaron Rebsamen: Aaron Stephen Rebsamen, fourteen, the son of well-known cryptozoology artist William Rebsamen, died by suicide on May 23, 2002, in his Fort Smith, Arkansas, home. William Rebsamen did the cover art for Loren Coleman's *Mothman and Other Curious Encounters*.

Susan Wilcox: Susan J. "Minga" Wilcox, fifty-three, of Columbus, Ohio, died of an extremely rare form of brain tumor, ependymoma, on December 8, 2002. Wilcox reportedly saw a black "batlike" bedroom invader in her home in February 2001 and went on to become a Mothman investigator. She traveled to Point Pleasant several times in 2001 and 2002, and created a personal website, *Mothman: A Life Changed Forever*.

Jessica Kaplan: Kaplan, a crew member on *The Mothman Prophecies* motion picture, died in a plane crash in the Fairfax neighborhood of Los Angeles on June 6, 2003. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that the pilot, Jeffrey T. Siegel, owner of a Santa Monica construction firm, and his niece, Kaplan, twenty-four, were flying to the family's second home in Sun Valley, Idaho.

Alan Bates: British actor Sir Alan Bates, sixty-nine, died the night of December 27, 2003, at a hospital in London after a long battle with cancer. Bates played "Alexander Leek" in *The Mothman Prophecies*. "Leek" was Keel spelled backward.

Jennifer Barrett-Pellington: On August 3, 2004, Jennifer Barrett-Pellington, forty-two, wife of *The Mothman Prophecies* director Mark Pellington, died in Los Angeles of an ongoing illness. Her husband had included a "Special Thanks" credit to his wife for her support of him on that film.

Raymond H. Wamsley: Wamsley, fifty-seven, who, together with his wife, was with Marcella Bennett during the famed "second sighting" of Mothman on November 16, 1966, died on September 15, 2004.

Mark A. Bennett: Bennett, forty-five, son of Marcella Bennett, one of the principals in the "second sighting" of Mothman, was also a witness to the phenomenon. He passed away in his home in Point Pleasant on April 16, 2007.

Bob Tracey: Tracey, who portrayed "Cyrus Bills" in the motion picture *The Mothman Prophecies*, died from complications of pneumonia on January 26, 2007, exactly five years to the weekend that the Mothman movie opened in theaters across the United States.

Marcella Bennett: The focus of the "second sighting" of Mothman, Bennett died at the age of 69 on March 3, 2009.

John A. Keel: Born Alva John Kiehle in upstate New York on March 25, 1930, and the author of *The Mothman Prophecies* and numerous other books, Keel died at the age of 79 on July 3, 2009, at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City.

Linda Scarberry: One of the earliest eyewitnesses (November 15, 1966) to the Mothman, Scarberry died on March 6, 2011, after a brief battle with cancer.

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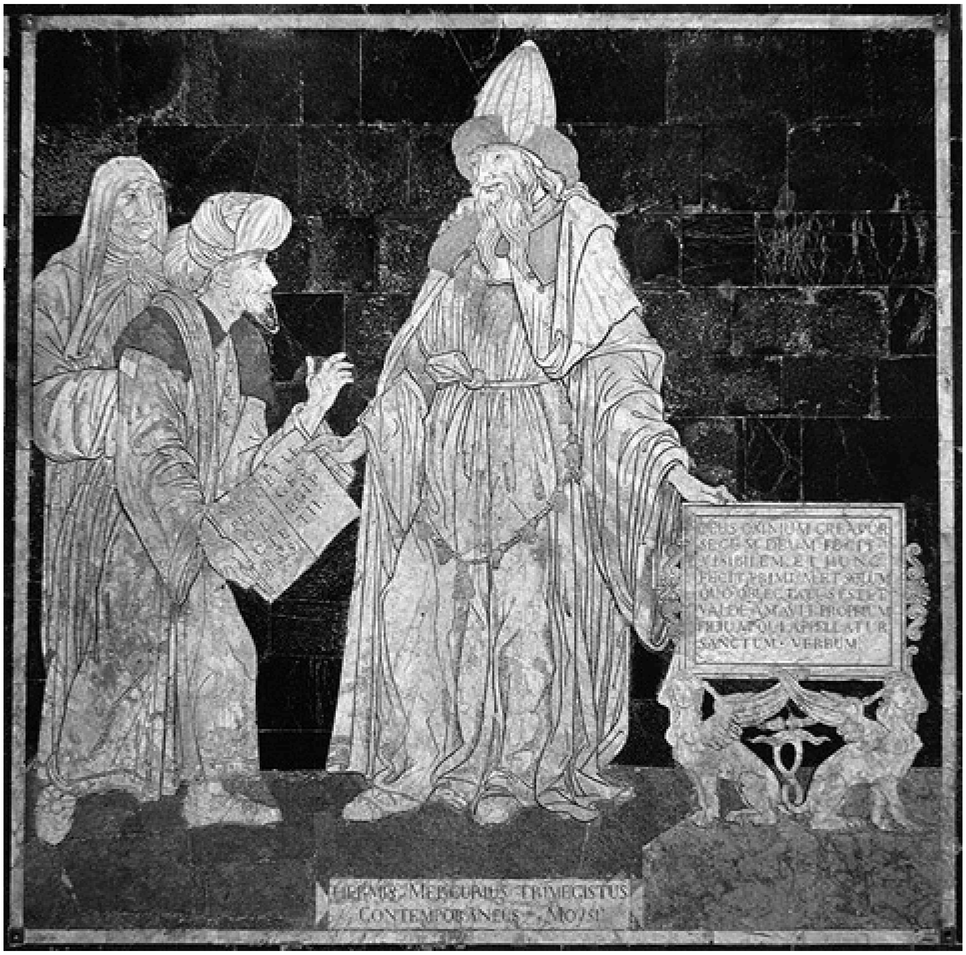
MYSTERY SCHOOLS

Even the most high-tech of contemporary secret societies owe a large part of their rituals, ideals, and philosophy to the ancient mystery schools of Egypt.

For more than three thousand years, the mystery schools of Egypt have epitomized the very essence of the puzzling, the arcane, and the ultimate in secret wisdom and knowledge. As in ancient times, many modern cultists insist that the great teachers who presided over the Egyptian mystery schools came from some extraordinary place. Some believe that the wise masters were those who survived the destruction of the lost continent of Atlantis. Others suggest that such entities as the god Osiris were extraterrestrial astronauts from the Pleiades. There are conservative scholars, as well, who have a sense that the schools contained within their teachings knowledge that came from very ancient times, perhaps a mysterious unknown world in prehistory. The Pyramid Texts of Egypt (c. 3100 B.C.E.) contain many prayers quoted from even more ancient times, and it is apparent that the prayers were used as magical formulas and spells.



A mosaic of Hermes Trismegistus, a fascinating combination of the Egyptian god Thoth and the Greek god Hermes, can be found at the Siena Cathedral in Italy.

The mysterious first initiator into these sacred doctrines was known as Toth and later, to the Greeks, by his more familiar name of Hermes. Hermes-Toth is a generic name that designates a man, a caste, and a god at the same time. Later Greek disciples of this secret tradition called him Hermes Trismegistus ("thrice greatest") and credited him with originating the material contained in forty-two books of esoteric science.

In the time of the pharaoh Ramses (c. 1300 B.C.E.), seekers of the divine sciences came to Egypt from the distant shores of Asia Minor and Greece to study in the sanctuaries with magi and hierophants in hope of learning the secrets of immortality. The initiates of the mystery schools were well aware that they must accept without complaint the rigors of disciplined study and the training of body, soul, and spirit. In order to attain the mastery demanded by the priests, the neophytes would undergo a complete restructuring of their physical, moral, and spiritual being. According to the credo of the mysteries, only by developing one's faculties of will, intuition, and reason to an extraordinary degree could one ever gain access to the hidden forces in the universe. Only through complete mastery of body, soul, and spirit could one see beyond death and perceive the pathways to be taken in the afterlife. Only when one had conquered fate and acquired divine freedom could one become a seer, a magician, an initiator.

Pythagoras, the great Greek philosopher-mathematician, learned the secret doctrine of numbers, the heliocentric system of the universe, music, astrology, astronomy, mathematics, and geometry from the powerful Egyptian magi. Before he established his own school of philosophy in southern Italy, Pythagoras spent twenty-two years in the temples of Egypt as an initiate in the ancient mysteries.

For centuries the pharaohs themselves were the pupils and instruments of the hierophants, the magicians, who presided over the temples and cults of Osiris. Each pharaoh received his initiation name from the temple, and the priests were honored with the roles of counselors and advisers to the throne. Some have even referred to the rule of ancient Egypt as government of the initiates.

THE GREEK MYSTERY SCHOOLS

From Egypt, the hidden wisdom of the mystery schools traveled to Greece. The word *mystery* itself comes from the Greek word *myein*, "to close," referring to the need of the *mystes*, the initiate, to close his or her eyes and lips and to keep secret the rites of the cult. The religion of ancient Greece was a sophisticated kind of nature worship wherein natural elements and phenomena were transformed into divine beings who lived atop Mount Olympus. There was no highly organized or formally educated priesthood, no strict doctrines. The followers of the religion worshipped the god or gods of their choosing and believed that they could gain these deities favor by performing simple ritual acts and sacrifices.

In addition to the religion to which every Greek belonged automatically at birth, there were also the "mystery religions," which required elaborate processes of purification and initiation before a man or woman could qualify for membership. The mystery religions were concerned with the spiritual welfare of the individual, and their proponents believed in an orderly universe and the unity of all life with God.

The early mystery schools of the Greeks centered on ritual reenactments of the lives of such gods as Osiris, Dionysus, and Demeter, divinities most often associated with the underworld, the realm of the dead, the powers of darkness, and the process of rebirth. Because of the importance of the regenerative process, the rites of the mysteries were usually structured around a divine female as the agent of transformation and regeneration. While the initiates of the mystery cult enacted the life cycles of gods who triumphed over death and who were reborn, they also asserted their own path of wisdom that would enable them to conquer death, accomplish resurrection in the afterlife, and undergo rebirth in a new body, in a new existence.

The aim and promise of the mystical rites was to enable initiates to attain union with the divine. The purifications and processions, the fasting and the feasts, the blazing lights of torches and the musical liturgies played during the performances of the sacred plays all fueled the imagination and stirred deep emotions. The initiates left the celebration of the mystery knowing that they were now superior to the problems that the uninitiated faced concerning life, death, and immortality. They knew not only that their communion with the patron god or goddess would continue after death, but that they would eventually leave Hades to be born again in another life experience.

THE ELEUSINIAN MYSTERIES

The sacred Eleusinian mysteries of the Greeks date to the fifth century B.C.E. and were the most popular and influential of the cults. The cult of Eleusis centered around the myth of Demeter, the great mother of agriculture and vegetation, and her daughter Persephone, queen of the Greek underworld, goddess of death and regeneration. The drama symbolized the odyssey of the human soul, its descent into matter, its earthly sufferings, its terror in the darkness of death, and its rebirth into divine existence. In the temples and in the groves where the mysteries were celebrated, the aspirants were told that life was a series of tests and that after death there would be revealed the hopes and joys of a glorious world beyond and the opportunity for rebirth.

The rites of the mysteries took place near Eleusis, a small community fourteen miles west of Athens. Although the Dionysian and Orphic rites could be celebrated at any time, the Eleusinian rites were held at a fixed time in the early fall after the wheat and barley seeds had been planted in the fields. The rites and were conducted by a hereditary priesthood called the Eumolpedie, the "singers of gracious melodies."

Those initiates who entered into communion with Dionysus drank heavily of the fruit of the vine and celebrated with orgiastic feasts….

Sometime in the month of September, the Eumolpedie removed the Eleusinian holy objects from Eleusis and carried them to the sacred city of Athens, where they were placed in the Eleusinion. Three days after the holy relics had been transported, the initiates gathered to hear the exhortations of the priests, who solemnly warned all those who did not consider themselves worthy of initiation to leave at once. Women and even slaves were permitted to join the mysteries of Eleusis, providing that they were either Greeks or (later) Romans. After the rites of purification had been observed, the initiates bathed in the sea and were sprinkled with the blood of pigs as they emerged. A sacrifice was offered to the gods, and a procession began to Eleusis, where, upon the arrival of the priests, the initiates were received by the high priest of Eleusis, the hieroceryx, or sacred herald, who was dressed as the god Hermes (Mercury, to the Romans) and held the caduceus, the entwined serpents, as a symbol of his authority. Once the aspirants had assembled, the sacred herald led them to a sanctuary of Persephone hidden in a quiet valley in the midst of a sacred grove. Here, the priestesses of Persephone, crowned with narcissus wreaths, began chanting, warning the neophytes of the mysteries that they were about to perceive. The initiates would learn that the present life they held so dear was but a tapestry of illusion and confused dreams.

For the next several days, the initiates fasted, prayed, and participated in cleansing rituals. On the evening of the last day of the celebration of the mystery, the aspirants gathered in the most secret area of the sacred grove to attend the Eleusinian drama, which reenacted the myth of the rape, abduction, and marriage of Persephone by Hades, god of the underworld, and her separation from her mother, Demeter, the goddess of grain and vegetation. The rites imitated the agricultural cycles of planting the seed, nurturing its growth, and harvesting the grain. This symbolically represented the birth of the soul, its journey through life, and its death.

THE DIONYSIAN MYSTERIES

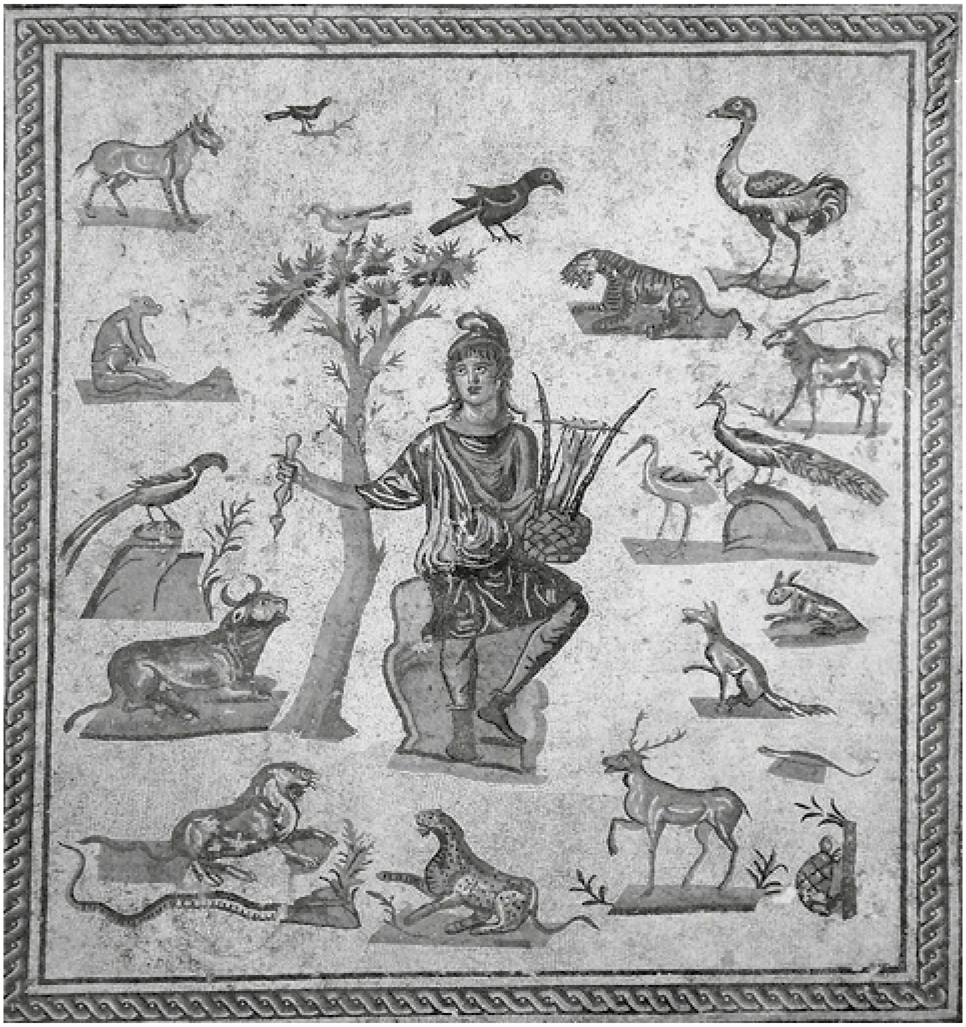
Next in popularity to the Eleusinian mysteries were the Dionysian, centered on Dionysus (Bacchus), a god of life, vegetation, and the vine who, because all things growing and green must one day decay and die, was also a divinity of the underworld. Those initiates who entered into communion with Dionysus drank heavily of the fruit of the vine and celebrated with orgiastic feasts that encouraged them to dress in leaves and flowers and even to take on the character of the god himself, thereby also achieving his power. Once the god had entered into union with the initiates, they would experience a spiritual rebirth. This divine union with Dionysus marked the beginning of a new life for the initiates, who thereafter regarded themselves as superior beings. Since Dionysus was the Lord of Death as well as the Lord of Life, the initiates believed that their union with him would continue even after death and that immortality was now within their grasp. The earlier rites of Dionysus often featured the sacrifice of an animal—usually a goat—that was torn to pieces by the initiates, whose savagery was meant to symbolize the incarnation, death, and resurrection of the divinity.

THE CULT OF ORPHEUS

Orpheus may have been an actual historical figure, a man capable of charming both man and beast with his music, but god or human, he modified the Dionysian rites by removing their orgiastic elements. According to some traditions, he was the son a priestess of Apollo, gifted with a melodious voice, golden hair, deep blue eyes, and a powerful magnetism that exerted a kind of magic upon all those with whom he came into contact. Then, so the legend goes, he disappeared, and many presumed him dead. In reality, he had traveled to Memphis in Egypt, where he spent the next twenty years studying in the Egyptian mystery schools. When he returned to Greece, he was known only by the name that he had received in the initiation rites, Orpheus of Alpha, hailed as "the one who heals with light."

An essential aspect of the Orphic initiation was the process of the initiate's absorbing the healing light of Orpheus and purifying the heart and spirit. Among the truths that Orpheus had learned in the Egyptian sanctuaries was that God is One, but the gods are many and diverse. Orpheus had descended into hell, the underworld, and braved its challenges and subdued the demons of the abyss. The disciples of the Orphic/Dionysian schools were promised the celestial fire of Zeus, the light retrieved by Orpheus, which enabled their souls to triumph over death. These things were enacted in the mystery play that depicted Orpheus descending into Hades and observing Persephone, the queen of the dead, being awakened by Dionysus and reborn in his arms, thus perpetuating the cycle of rebirth and death, past and future, blending into a timeless immortality.

While other schools of reincarnation see the process of rebirth as an evolving of the soul ever higher with each incarnation, the Orphic school introduced the concept of the soul as being gradually purged or purified through the sufferings incurred during each physical rebirth. As the soul inhabits the body, it is really doing penance for previous incarnations, a process that gradually purifies it. Between lifetimes, when the soul descends to Hades, it can enjoy a brief period of freedom, which can be pleasant or unpleasant. Then it must return to the cycle of births and deaths.



A Thracian bard of renown, Orpheus was a poet, musician, and prophet whose legend gave rise to the religion of Orphism.

According to Orphic teachings, the only way out of the "wheel of birth," the "great circle of necessity," was through an act of divine grace that could possibly be obtained through the supplicant's becoming immersed in the writing, ritual acts, and teachings of Orpheus and initiation into the mysteries of the cult. Once this had been accomplished, the initiates were given secret formulae that would enable them to avoid the snares awaiting the unwary soul as it descended to Hades and ensure them a blissful stay while they awaited a sign that their participation in the great circle of necessity had ended.

The mystery schools kept alive the practice of magic and the belief that secret rituals and sacred relics could command the presence of divinity. The ancient mystery rites dedicated to such gods as Osiris, Isis, and Dionysus—together with the magical formulas discovered by Hermes Trismegistus and other masters—compelled the gods to manifest and share their powers. The myths of the old gods and the holy scriptures of the Christians, the secret experiences of the ancients and the revelations of the apostles, the personal sense of God developed by the pagan cults and the promise of the Christian church fathers that one could know God through his son—all seem to some individuals to be completely harmonious. The rich inheritance of the pagan world seems to them too valuable to abandon when such mysteries could be so easily adapted and kept alive in new rituals throughout the ages.

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MYSTICAL SOCIETIES AND ALTERED STATES OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Today there are many groups that may seem secret and mysterious, but they want to connect with God, not control the world.

In a book that deals with so many sinister secret societies and global conspiracies, a distinction must be made between groups that conspire against humankind and those that aspire through meditation, prayer, or direct mystical experience to achieve union with divinity, God, or ultimate reality. Such entities and endeavors as the Self-Realization Fellowship, tantra, Transcendental Meditation, yoga, shamanism, the Association for Research and Enlightenment, the Course on Miracles, and Kabbalah may appear secret and mysterious to those who do not understand their principles, but they are all mystical, not political, in nature, and they seek to reach the divine through meditation or altered states of consciousness induced by silence and prayer, rather than drugs or alcohol. The experiences of the mystics are very subjective, and their dreams, visions, and revelations are most often meant for the individual and are not to be shared.

An altered state of consciousness is a brain state wherein one loses the sense of identity with one's body or with one's normal sense perceptions.

An altered state of consciousness is a brain state wherein one loses the sense of identity with one's body or with one's normal sense perceptions. A person may enter an altered state of consciousness through such things as sensory deprivation or overload, neurochemical imbalance, fever, or trauma. One may also achieve an altered state by chanting, meditating, or entering a trance.

Trance consciousness may be induced by rapt attentiveness to a single stimulus, such as the voice of a hypnotist, one's own heartbeat, a chant, trance-inducing rituals, and primitive dances. The trance state is characterized by hyper-suggestibility and concentrated attention on one stimulus to the exclusion of all others.

Trance consciousness usually leads to expanded consciousness, comprising four levels:

1. The sensory level, characterized by subjective reports of space, time, body image, or sense impressions having been altered.
2. The recollective-analytic level, which summons up memories of one's past and provides insights concerning self, work, or personal relationships.
3. The symbolic level, which is often characterized by vivid visual imagery of mythical, religious, and historical symbols.
4. The integrative level, in which the individual undergoes an intense religious illumination, experiences a dissolution of self, and is confronted by God or some

divine being.

Each of these four levels may be induced by hypnosis, meditation, prayer, or free association during psychoanalysis. Through the ages, many of humankind's major material and spiritual breakthroughs may have come from these virtually unmapped, uncharted regions of the mind.

Students of spirituality describe the ecstatic experience as the ultimate mystic state—the one in which the human spirit is swept up and into an immediate union with the divine. As Evelyn Underhill says in *Mysticism* (1911), "The induced ecstasies of the Dionysian mysteries, the metaphysical raptures of the Neoplatonists, the voluntary or involuntary trance of Indian mystics and Christian saints—all these, however widely they may differ in transcendental value, agree in claiming such value, in declaring that this change of consciousness brought with it a valid and ineffable apprehension of the Real."

Entering a state of trance as this brahmana is doing is a practice in many religions for achieving spiritual illumination.

Fredric W. H. Myers, one of the founders of the Society for Psychical Research, observed that the evidence for ecstasy is stronger than the evidence for any other religious belief. "Of all the subjective experiences of religion, ecstasy is that which has been most urgently, perhaps to the psychologist most convincingly asserted; and it is not confined to any one religion," Myers said. "From the medicine man up to St. John, St. Peter, and St. Paul, with

Buddha and Mahomet on the way, we find records which, though morally and intellectually much differing, are in psychological essence the same."

In the ecstatic state, every thought, feeling, or emotion is pushed out of the mind except for the idea of God and the emotions of joy and love. These fill the mind to the exclusion of nearly everything else and are themselves blended into a single whole. Mystics do not *believe* God to be present, they *feel* God united with their soul.

Mystic ecstasy, to the percipient of the experience, reveals a genuine truth. He or she is brought face-to-face with ultimate reality experienced through emotions and intuition. A transcendence of the self is achieved. The mystic returns from the experience with the certainty of having been somewhere else and having received a revelation of some remarkable truth, such as that reality is unitary and divine; that even ordinary human experiences are phenomenal; that the soul, which is the key to reality, may rise to oneness with God; or that God's presence can be found everywhere hidden in the midst of daily life.

There are many reasons why the great majority of scientific researchers remain doubtful about the validity of altered states of consciousness, such as the misuse of hypnosis by amateur practitioners, the lack of understanding by professionals and public alike of the creative processes, the sometimes disastrous results of the recreational use of LSD and other psychedelic drugs, and the many charlatans who claim visions and revelations only to deceive the gullible. Descriptions of mystical revelations become almost florid as self-proclaimed seers and mystics attempt to translate their trance-state experiences into the language of a technically oriented society.

While skeptical psychological researchers continue to label claims of revelation and transcendence through altered states of consciousness as delusional and self-deceptive, others call for a serious examination of the totality of the human entity. Many researchers firmly believe that continued research into altered states of consciousness may well reveal that humankind's most important discoveries, its highest peaks of ecstasy, and its greatest moments of inspiration occur in reverie, in dreams, and in states of consciousness currently ignored by the professional world and the general public.

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NATION OF ISLAM

The Nation of Islam awaits the return of Wali Farad Muhammad, a human embodiment of God, who disappeared in 1933 but will return with a new and final holy book.

The Nation of Islam (NOI) is also known as the World Community of Al-Islam in the West, the American Muslim Mission, the Nation of Peace, and the Black Muslim Movement. The NOI was founded in 1930 by Wali Farad Muhammad (b. Wallace Dodd Fard) in Detroit. In the beginnings of the movement, the emphasis was largely social, a group of people working together to improve the political and economic structure of their own community first, and then to spread their doctrine of a better society across the United States.

Most of the religious doctrines and beliefs that became an essential part of the NOI were derived from the teachings of Noble Drew Ali and his Moorish Holy Temple of Science. Ali taught that most of the African tribes from which the slaves were captured were of Islamic heritage and should therefore be referred to as Moors. He further emphasized that a sure step to salvation was made when an African American refused to be called "Negro," "black," or "colored" and insisted upon being called a "Moor" or "Moorish American." When Noble Drew Ali died in 1929, John Given El claimed to be the reincarnation of the teacher—but so did Wallace D. Fard. Those who followed Given El became the Moorish Americans of the Moorish Temple of Science in Chicago, while those who followed Fard became the Nation of Islam.

Fard, now Wallace Farad Muhammad, de-emphasized the Bible and introduced his followers to the Qur'an. Among his basic teachings were the following:

1. Allah is God, the white race is the devil.
2. The Asiatic black people are the cream of planet Earth.

3. Blacks cannot achieve freedom, equality, and justice until they speak their true language (Arabic), practice their true religion (Islam), and gain their own separate state.
4. Christianity is the white man's religion, the slave religion that enabled the white man to keep the black man subjugated.

By 1934 Wallace Farad Muhammad had gathered about eight thousand members into his flock. In June of that year, he mysteriously disappeared. His most dedicated minister, Elijah Muhammad, took over the NOI. Elijah was so dedicated to his predecessor that he believed Wali Muhammad was God incarnate. Elijah was extremely strict and ran the NOI with an iron hand, even while in prison during World War II for draft evasion. His commands were relayed to the faithful by his wife, Clara, and his head ministers.

Elijah Muhammad remained head of the NOI until his death in 1975, when leadership passed to his son, Wallace Muhammad. Elijah had excommunicated Wallace at least four times during disputes over the ideology of Islamic Nationalism and black separatism, but had always reinstated him. Wallace Muhammad and his close friend Malcolm X had denied that Wallace Fard was actually Allah in the flesh, and they railed against Elijah Muhammad for committing adultery, a violation of the tenets of Islam. Before Malcolm X was assassinated in 1965, he had separated from the NOI and was held in disregard. Wallace Muhammad restored the legacy of Malcolm X as a respected and prominent teacher. Among other changes implemented by Wallace Muhammad were the following:

Succeeding the mysterious Wallace Farad Muhammad, Elijah Muhammad led the Nation of Islam from 1934 to 1975 and was the mentor of Malcolm X.

1. The removal of the doctrine of racial superiority taught by Wali Farad Muhammad and Elijah Muhammad. Orthodox Muslims believe in the equality of all. There is no one group superior over another.
2. The recognition of Wali Farad Muhammad as a wise man and a teacher, but not the incarnation of Allah. Orthodox Muslims believe the Qur'an given to the prophet Muhammad between the years of 610 and 632 was Allah's final revelation to humankind.
3. Business and religious practices would be conducted as separate entities.
4. The Nation of Islam did not wish to establish a state separate unto themselves.
5. The U.S. Constitution would henceforth be honored by all NOI members.
6. NOI members would now be aligned with Orthodox Islam.

Wallace Muhammad changed the name of the Nation of Islam to the Bilalian Community, then to the World Community of Al-Islam in the West, then to the American Muslim Mission, and then to the Muslim Mission. In the process, he moved the community toward a more orthodox interpretation of Sunni Islam.

However, a number of NOI followers strongly objected to the dismissal of the doctrines of black racial superiority and racial separation as taught by the founding fathers. In 1978 Louis Farrakhan assumed the leadership of the NOI as the "spiritual son" of Elijah Muhammad, and in 1981 he publicly announced the restoration of the Nation of Islam.

Farrakhan led the Nation of Islam for decades from their Chicago headquarters. Among the controversial teachings of the Nation of Islam are the following:

1. The black man is the original man on Earth. By using a special method of birth control created by Yakub, a black scientist, the ancient black man was able to produce the white race. Farrakhan has remarked that the white people are "potential humans" but they haven't yet evolved.
2. The universe was created 78 trillion years ago, and also at this time God was self-created on earth. He was the only one in the entire dark universe, but he was a black man.
3. The original, physical manifestation of God died, but his essence is infinite. Since the physical God died, the universe has been ruled by a council of twenty-four black scientists, the head scientist being known as Allah. No God lives forever. Their wisdom and work may live for 25,000 years, but the actual being may have died after a hundred or so years. There have been several Gods, each a black man. In our current time, the supreme God was W. D. Fard, who disappeared in 1933, but who will return with a final holy book.
4. There is a giant Mother Spaceship that is made like the universe, spheres within spheres, and can appear as a cloud by day but a pillar of fire by night. What white people call "UFOs" are smaller craft from the Mother Ship.

As in orthodox Islam, the NOI member believes in prayer five times daily, facing in the direction of the holy city of Mecca; charity to the poor; fasting during the month of Ramadan; and the duty of everyone who is physically and financially able to make Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca, at least once in a lifetime.

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NATIVISM

Nativism is dedicated to the proposition that the United States was founded to serve only white Anglo-Saxon Protestants.

Nativism is a defensive, often violent, reaction to unrestricted immigration. In the United States, nativism is an intense form of nationalism that expresses itself in xenophobia (fear of foreigners), anti-Catholicism, and belief in white Anglo-Saxon Protestant supremacy.

Following the 1848 revolutions that rocked Europe, millions of immigrants began arriving in the United States. Negative reaction to the influx was intensified among the postcolonial Protestant majority on the East Coast because many of the new arrivals were Catholic, Jewish, or other religions, and often hailed from eastern or southern Europe. Increasingly, immigrants were arriving from Asia and Africa as well.

Secret nativist societies, such as the Order of the Star-Spangled Banner organized by Charles B. Allen in 1849, had memberships of "God-fearing Protestants" dedicated to ensuring that native-born non-Catholic Americans would receive preferential treatment in all avenues of social and political society. Members of such secret groups became known as the "Know-Nothings" because none of them would admit knowing anything about the clandestine societies.

The Nativists gained strength and some degree of respectability when they went public in 1854 and established the American Party. The new political group was strongly anti-Irish-Catholic and worked for legislation that would require twenty-one years of waiting time before anyone could become a U.S. citizen. The American Party lost its influence when former president Millard Fillmore, the party's presidential candidate in the election of 1856, was soundly defeated.

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NAZI UFOs

German scientists were apparently so advanced that they made contact with an alien species as early as the 1920s and were constructing flying disks and conducting space missions by 1942.

This scale model of a Nazi UFO is on display at a museum in Mamerki, Poland, that was once a German communication center during World War II.

Numerous UFO researchers have made a connection between alien beings and German secret societies like the Thule, the Vril, and the Black Sun. In his controversial seminar "UFO Secrets of the Third Reich," Vladimir Terziski tells of an "alien tutor race" that secretly began cooperating with certain German scientists in the late 1920s, introducing them to advanced philosophical, cultural, and technological concepts. With help from extraterrestrial intelligences, Terziski postulates, the Nazis mastered antigravity flight, established space stations, accomplished time travel, and developed warp-speed spacecraft so that they might construct moon bases. At the same time the aliens "spread their Mephistophelean ideas" into the wider German population through the Thule and Vril societies.

Antigravity research began in Germany in the 1920s with the first hybrid antigravity circular craft, the R-FZ-1, constructed by the secret Vril Society. In 1942–43 a series of antigravity machines culminated in the 350-foot-long, cigar-shaped Andromeda space station, which was constructed in old zeppelin hangars near Berlin by E4, the research-and-development arm of the SS.

Terziski is not alone in making such claims regarding extraterrestrials and Nazi cooperation. Although some researchers scoff at them as pure fantasy, others are convinced that there is not only a Nazi-alien connection but also a massive cover-up by the international shadow governments. Skeptics wonder why Germany lost the war rather than use their superior alien technology.

We do know that shortly before the Third Reich collapsed in 1945, Wernher von Braun, Hermann Oberth, and about eighty other top scientists were smuggled out of Nazi Germany by the Allies, who also captured various documents, files, plans, photographs, and designs during Operation Paperclip. However, 130 crack Nazi designers of specialized aircraft and a file containing plans for discoid-shaped aircraft are said to have disappeared.

The UFO researcher Jammie A. Romee has stated that the mysterious disappearance of that vital file and the technologists needs to be added to the list of oddities that took place shortly before and after the fall of the Third Reich. Among these oddities various researchers cite the following:

- The unexplained disappearance of several German freight U-boats, each capable of transporting up to 850 metric tons.
- The disappearance from Tempelhof Air Base of several long-distance planes with flight plans to Spain and South America.
- The disappearance of several tens of millions of marks in hard currency, gold bullion, and precious stones from the Reichsbank.
- The fact that UFOs were, and continue to be, sighted in great numbers over areas of South America in which many Nazis (and members of secret societies) are known to be hidden.

The fascination of German science with rockets began with Hermann Oberth's book *By Rocket to Interplanetary Space* (1923). Numerous other books by other experimenters advanced the cause of spacecraft development in Germany in the mid-1920s. In 1927 the Society for Space Travel was organized, with Wernher von Braun and Willy Ley among its members. The society produced the world's first rocket-powered automobile, the Opel-Rak 1, with Fritz von Opel in 1928. Further experiments were made with railway cars, rocket sleds, crude vertical-takeoff-and-landing aircraft, and some successful launches from the rocket airfield near Berlin. When Hitler seized power in Germany in 1933, the Nazi Party took over all rocket and aircraft development, and all astronautical societies were nationalized.

In 1938 Hitler's aide Martin Bormann ordered the careful mapping of all mountain passes, caves, bridges, and highways in Germany and began selecting sites for underground factories, munitions dumps, and food caches. Giant underground workshops and launching pads, known as "U-plants," were established, with crews of top German scientists working on creating secret weapons. A slave-labor force of 250,000 was required to complete work on such fortresses. Networks of tunnels and assembly plants were fashioned in Austria, Bavaria, and northern Italy.

During the war, Allied intelligence learned about Project Feuerball (Fireball). Based at the Luftwaffe experimental center near Oberammergau, Bavaria, it was focused on creating an aerial device that would confuse Allied radar and interrupt electromagnetic currents. Efforts were accelerated to perfect the craft in 1944, but work appears to have shifted to the development of the Kugelblitz (Round Lightning), a circular aircraft quite unlike any previous flying object in terrestrial aviation history.

In May 1945, after the Nazi surrender, British agents searching the files of underground factories in the Black Forest located documents describing important experiments relating to new turbine engines capable of developing extraordinary power. Rumors abound that Canadian intelligence took plans for an advanced circular aircraft from Peenemünde, site of the main Nazi rocket-experimental complex from 1937 to 1945, and presented them as a challenge to the scientists at the De Havilland Aircraft Company. According to other rumors, the engineers at De Havilland actually made the "flying saucer" fly—briefly, but they never mastered the propulsion techniques required to keep the craft in the air for very long at a time.

Currently, the question continues to be hotly debated: Did the Nazi scientists manage to keep *their* flying saucer in the air for a very long time—long enough to establish bases on the moon?

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NEW AGE MOVEMENT

Besides some contemporary terms for ancient teachings and spiritual practices, there is really nothing very new about the "New Age" movement. It still upsets the establishment priesthood in much the same ways as it did thousands of years ago.

Many of the roots of contemporary New Age thinking can be found in the ancient Egyptian and Greek mystery schools; and in the 1970s, a number of the concepts and beliefs professed by Mme. Helena Blavatsky in the 1880s were refined and given a new life in what has been broadly defined and termed the "New Age." In addition to such contributions as occult masters and guides, Madame Blavatsky was greatly responsible for popularizing the concepts of reincarnation and past lives in Europe and the United States.

It is, however, Alice Bailey, a prodigious writer of the occult, who has earned the title of "mother" of the modern form of the New Age movement. Born Alice Ann La Trobe Bateman on June 16, 1880, to a wealthy, aristocratic family in Manchester, England, Alice was an extraordinary woman who served at one time as a devoted conventionally religious missionary worker and Sunday-school teacher.

Ukrainian author Helena Blavatsky founded the Theosophical Society in 1875. A blending of Eastern and Western philosophies, the society inspired the current New Age movement.

At the age of fifteen Alice had a profound spiritual experience. One afternoon she was alone in her room reading when the door mysteriously opened, and a tall stranger entered. Terrified, Alice felt unable to move or to speak as the man, with a large turban on his head, began explaining that there was a plan for her on earth. However, her disposition would have to change considerably. If she could learn to exercise self-control and become a more pleasant and trustworthy person, she would travel all over the world and do the "master's work."

Adding that he would check in on her at several-year intervals, he paused, looked at her one last time, and walked out.

Thinking the stranger to be Jesus Christ, Alice was deeply affected by his message. She worked hard at becoming a nice person, so much so that her family feared she was ill. Not until years later, after she had moved to California and some friends introduced her to Helena Blavatsky, Theosophy, and the Secret Doctrines, did Alice realize that the man who had so mysteriously walked into her room and life was Master Koot Hoomi.

The essence of humankind was its divinity, said the New Agers, and each man and woman was a co-creator with God.

Theosophy is an esoteric blend of Zoroastrianism, Hinduism, Gnosticism, Manichaeism, the Kabbalah, and the philosophy of Plato and other mystics—all combined with the teachings of mysterious masters who dwell in secret places in the Himalayas and communicate with their initiates through their psychic abilities and their projected astral bodies. Madame Blavatsky claimed to be able to draw upon the ancient wisdom of the Tibetan masters Koot Hoomi and Morya to supplement the considerable knowledge that she had distilled from various mystery schools.

In 1875 Madame Blavatsky, Henry Steel Olcott, and William Q. Judge decided to move beyond the precepts of Spiritualism and create a more sophisticated approach to spirit contact and mysticism. They named their new organization the Theosophical Society. The threefold purpose of the society was to form a universal brotherhood of man; to study and make known the ancient religions, philosophies, and sciences; and to investigate the laws of nature and develop the divine powers latent in humankind. In 1877 Madame Blavatsky published her overview of the occult, *Isis Unveiled*.

Mesmerized by Blavatsky's teachings, Alice Bailey rose to prominence in the Theosophical Society headquarters in California, taking a job as a vegetarian cook and scrubbing the bottoms of garbage pails to support herself. A first marriage ended in divorce, but her second marriage, to the attorney Foster Bailey, the treasurer of the society, was successful, for he too devoted his life to the study of ancient wisdom. Not long after their uniting, in 1919, another "teacher" appeared to Alice, identifying himself as the Tibetan master DK or Djwhal Khul.

Alice wrote a series of "Ageless Wisdom" books of teachings from DK that became very popular and were eventually lauded as classics in occult teaching. In her later years, Alice and Foster Bailey founded the Arcane School, headquartered in New York, with centers in Europe; Lucis Trust, with over six thousand active members; the Lucis Trust Publishing Company; and the World Goodwill Centers. Her work continues to be a main influence on "New Agers" or those interested in the occult or in deeper spiritual mysteries.

In the 1960s, when the flower children began singing about the dawning of the Age of Aquarius flooding the world with the light of harmony and understanding, conventional Christian clergy became increasingly concerned about the role of Jesus in the New Age. Conservative theologians assessed the New Age philosophy as being more human-centered than God-centered. The essence of humankind was its divinity, said the New Agers, and each man and woman was a co-creator with God. The members of the movement seemed completely open-minded and tolerant of all paths and religious perspectives—except that of Christianity.

In the 1970s, after the publication of Jane Roberts's books *The Seth Material* and *Seth Speaks*, "channeling" became a more popular name for mediumship. Soon "channelers" were emerging in large numbers, and individuals such as Jach Pursel, Kevin Ryerson, and J. Z. Knight had attained international celebrity status. Contact with the powers of the human psyche and the mysterious world beyond death achieved a peak of popularity that led to an outpouring of television programs, motion pictures, books, New Age expos, and psychic fairs in a virtual cosmic explosion. The New Age had arrived.

In 1987 the ABC television network presented a miniseries based on actress Shirley MacLaine's book *Out on a Limb* (1983), which dealt with many subjects exciting to New Age followers: reincarnation, extraterrestrial visitation, ancient mysteries, and spirit communication. Perhaps the most captivating segments of the miniseries depicted MacLaine receiving spirit communication through the channeler Kevin Ryerson. The actress and the medium played themselves in the five-hour dramatization on prime-time television, and an international audience of millions could see for themselves how "Tom McPherson," the four-hundred-year-old spirit of an Irishman, spoke through Ryerson to advise MacLaine. With the popularity of *Out on a Limb* as a book and as a miniseries, the actress herself conducted a series of seminars in which she discussed her beliefs in past lives, UFOs, and spirit communication.

Why should a philosophical movement that sought to explore ancient mysteries and borderline science become popular in a day of high-tech communications, the internet, and increasingly sophisticated technology? J. Z. Knight's spirit guide Ramtha—a 35,000-year-old warrior from the lost continent of Lemuria—answered that question by stating that there really weren't any mysteries left for humankind to explore on their material journey. Millions of people had reached a kind of peak in their evolution and were asking who they really were and why they were really here. Ramtha also said that the human journey had reached a point when the self seeks to turn inward.

Born Judith Darlene Hampton in 1946 in Dexter, New Mexico, J. Z. Knight grew up in poverty and married soon after attending Lubbock Business College in Lubbock, Texas. The marriage produced two sons but ended in divorce. It was while she was working as a cable television salesperson in Roswell, New Mexico, and Tacoma, Washington, that she began using the initials J. Z., taken from her given first name and her nickname, "Zebra," derived from her penchant for wearing black-and-white clothing.

One day in 1977 when J. Z. and her second husband, Jeremy Wilder, a dentist, were putting together small pyramids for an experiment with "pyramid energy," Ramtha appeared before them in their kitchen in Tacoma. After a period of study with Ramtha, Knight gave her first public channeling in November 1978. Word of the content and the mystique of her work spread quickly and gained a wide following for the 35,000-year-old entity and his channel.

Motion picture stars such as Shirley MacLaine, Linda Evans, and Richard Chamberlain have been in the audiences of Ramtha, along with throngs of other people from around the United States and Canada. Since 1978 thousands have studied the Ramtha videos, cassettes, and books. In 1988 Ramtha founded the School of Enlightenment on Knight's ranch in Yelm, Washington, which continues to hold teaching seminars and which is not a secret society, a church, or a nonprofit organization.

Hollywood personalities such as actress Shirley MacLaine have kept interest in New Age alive into the twenty-first century.

The nationwide interest in channelers and after-death communication continues to find expression in such popular mediums as Sylvia Browne, James Van Praagh, and John Edward, and the orthodox clergy continues to condemn this fascination with the occult as a satanic ploy to draw people away from church, synagogue, or temple. The broader expression of spiritual and inward-looking ideas popularized by the New Age movement have in the 21st century rippled through the ever-widening communities of people who look to practices such as channeling, meditation, yoga, and homeopathic medicine for healing and purpose.

Some have posited that the all-embracing mentality common to many New Agers leaves them prone to frequently believing in conspiracy theories, particularly those that posit unscrupulous elites who try to force the populace into following strict science, pharmaceutical-based medicine, and hierarchical organized religions. As the end of the twentieth century approached, according to religious studies academic David G. Robertson, some aspects of the New Age movement began to conspicuously bend toward conspiratorial thinking, with concerns about evil governments and enslaving religions threatening their once brighter utopian visions.

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Corporations such as Standard Oil, General Motors, IBM, Ford, the Chase and National City Banks, ITT, and many others invested heavily in the Third Reich.

NEW WORLD ORDER/ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT

There is an unholy alliance, an invisible government, with only one goal on its agenda: to control all the nations of the earth.

In 1906 President Theodore Roosevelt issued a warning that every conspiracy theorist since has heeded and keenly understood: “Behind the ostensible government sits enthroned an invisible government owing no allegiance and acknowledging no responsibility to the people. To destroy this invisible government, to befoul the unholy alliance between corrupt business and corrupt politics is the first task of the statesmanship of today.”

In 2002, when Attorney General John Ashcroft christened another homeland security force the “Freedom Corps,” conspiracy theorists were reminded of the Freikorps, the German army’s “irregulars” who cleared the way for Hitler by murdering Social Democrats and Communists. Such allusions also have a sinister echo for the historians who believe that the Third Reich that rose to power in Germany in the 1930s was an early attempt at a “New World Order” which was in large part supported by an Anglo-American business elite happy to play both sides of the war to come if it meant they could consolidate control.

Some economists have defined the Nazi state as a dictatorship of monopoly capitalism and consider Nazi Germany a capitalist paradise. It had a sixty-hour work week, low wages, and no unions. As countries succumbed to the Nazi juggernaut, major German businesses was able to absorb and even to plunder former competitors for next to nothing.

Corporations such as Standard Oil, General Motors, IBM, Ford, the Chase and National City Banks, ITT, and many others invested heavily in the Third Reich. When the United States entered World War II, its unsuspecting soldiers had no idea that ITT built the airplanes dropping bombs on them, that Ford and General Motors built the Nazis’ trucks and tanks. Ball bearings, crucial to the Nazi war effort, were manufactured in Philadelphia, yet were in scant supply in the States.

According to believers in the New World Order, this cabal that manipulates political and economic events everywhere has one goal in mind: to eventually seize control of all world governments and turn all of humanity into their serfs. While the elite secret cartel backed the Nazis, it also supported the Allies. It really didn't matter to the New World Order who won World War II. After all, the real money is in the weapons of war and capitalizing on the fear and chaos that conflicts create.

For decades, conspiracy investigators have issued warnings that secret government agencies have underground bases where they carry out high-tech, aerospace, and nuclear research, as well as bacteriological and chemical experiments. They believe that aliens have often bioengineered and genetically manipulated the human genome from the beginning of humankind's origins on Earth. Many of today's UFO researchers say they have proof that aliens mixed their DNA with that of humanity and live among us.

Norio Hayakawa, author of *UFOs, the Grand Deception and the Coming New World Order* (1993), warns of a global UFO conspiracy linked to a "sinister occult force" that is manufacturing the "Grand Deception." Hayakawa believes that this worldwide plot is designed to simulate an alien invasion in order bring about the New World Order. He warns that this "dramatic invasion and the ensuing catastrophic conflagration in the Middle East will immediately be followed by unprecedented [worldwide] earthquakes, a [global] financial crisis, and a sudden mysterious 'evacuation' [or 'removal,' depending on one's viewpoint] of a segment of the population worldwide—all of which will culminate in an urgent, official declaration of a totalitarian New World Order that will last for seven years upon its inception."

Futurist, political theorist, and social analyst Michael Lindemann became convinced that "an alien presence" on Earth was being "selectively revealed to the public with the blessing and sometimes direct involvement of government authorities." In Lindemann's view the architects of the New World Order, whom he refers to as "the Olympians," have an understanding that the world as we know it is careening toward environmental and economic catastrophe. The Olympians plan "to chart a course through a time of tremendous upheaval during which millions or even billions of people might die, and to emerge from that time still in power and with greatly enhanced prospects for an 'ideal' society of their own design. Their ability to succeed in this strategy will depend on controlling the perceptions and behavior of the citizens of the most-developed nations."

In 1992, when President George H. W. Bush began speaking about his hope that a "new world order" had been created after the conclusion of the Gulf War, evangelist Pat Robertson warned that this was actually a code for a secret group of conspirators who sought to replace Christian society with a worldwide atheistic socialist dictatorship. President Bush, charged Robertson and other conspiracy theorists, was a member of one of the world's most devilish and powerful secret societies, the Order of Skull and Bones. What was more, according to these same accusers, Bush was linked to secretive organizations like the Bilderbergers and the Trilateral Commission often linked to the forces pushing for one world government.

About the same time that President Bush's alleged secret society affiliations were being exposed, a number of fundamentalist Christian evangelists began to take their first real notice of the UFO phenomenon and saw the mysterious aerial objects as the "signs in the skies" referred to in apocalyptic literature and in the book of Revelation as heralding the advent of the antichrist. It was a short leap of faith for many evangelists to begin to combine accounts of UFOs with secret societies and the Beast of Revelation who would bring the New World Order into being.

RESIST THE NEW WORLD ORDER

Lockdown demands by governments around the world during the COVID-19 pandemic ignited protests by people claiming these regulations were part of a New World Order plot to control the masses.

Proponents of this cosmic conspiracy believe that when President Ronald Reagan gave his famous "alien invasion" speech to the United Nations General Assembly in 1987—he said, "I occasionally think how quickly our differences worldwide would vanish if we were facing an alien threat"—he had already secretly advised the gathered representatives that their leaders needed to meet demands given by extraterrestrial invaders or be destroyed.

A number of conspiracy theorists stated that Reagan's speech hinted at a plan agreed to by world leaders and extraterrestrial invaders that around the year 2000 a carefully staged "alien invasion" would convince the masses of the world that a real-life alien attack from outer space was about to begin. People would believe their leaders, who would tell them that the aliens were a benevolent species and that unconditional surrender to them would be for everyone's own good.

Immediately following the surrender to the aliens, the united leaders will form a One World Government or a New World Order, thus fulfilling biblical prophecies about a return to the days of Babylon. The aliens would then reveal themselves as demonic entities that delight in doing Satan's work.

Under the One World Government, the following laws and rules will apply:

- There will be only a one-unit monetary system.
- Permanent, nonelected hereditary oligarchists will select serfs from the population and form a feudal system, similar to the one that existed in the Middle Ages.
- Population will be limited by restrictions on the number of children per family.
- Diseases, wars, and famines will be engineered until there are only one billion people—those who are deemed useful to the ruling classes—living on the planet.
- There will be no middle class, only rulers and servants.
- A legal system of world courts will oversee a single unified code of laws, enforced by a One World Government police force and a One World unified military.
- None of the former national boundaries of countries shall exist.
- The social system will be on the basis of a welfare state—those who are obedient and subservient to the One World Government will be rewarded with the means to live. Rebels will be starved to death or declared outlaws, thereby becoming targets for anyone who wishes to kill them.
- Privately owned firearms or weapons of any kind will be prohibited.
- Only one religion will be allowed, and that will be in the form of a One World Government Church, which will adhere to Satanism.
- There will be no private or church schools.
- Christianity will not be permitted in any form.

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NIXON--THE CONSPIRACY PRESIDENT

Can all of Richard M. Nixon's successes and achievements, trials, and tribulations be attributed to his being a pawn of the Illuminati?

It must be decided by future historians how Richard M. Nixon will be assessed as a president of the United States. Some regard him as a great statesman, a master analyst of foreign policy, and an extremely reserved and intelligent man from a devout Quaker background. Others see him as a man whose belief that he was always the victim of others' malevolence meant that he needed to destroy all his opponents. He spoke with pride of his political crises and how he always managed to emerge stronger than before. Others perceived most of his crises as being of his own making and considered him a paranoid and destructive personality.

Conspiracy theorists judge Nixon as a paranoid man who saw conspiracies against him everywhere, plotted to confuse his rivals by spreading conspiracy theories he knew to be false, and then became himself involved in conspiracy after conspiracy until he was forced to leave the presidency because of the bungled conspiracy of Watergate.

Nixon graduated third in his class at Duke Law School and sought work with a law firm in New York. Disappointed that he was unable to find satisfactory employment, he returned home to Whittier, California. In 1940 he married schoolteacher Pat Ryan, who would later become invaluable to his political career. He served as a naval officer beginning in 1942 and first ventured into politics in 1946. According to conspiracists, he was backed by Eastern establishment money when he rose out of obscurity to defeat incumbent California congressman Jerry Voorhis, who was anti–Federal Reserve. Nixon also began the practice of portraying himself as the underdog and denigrating his opponent: He proclaimed to the voters that he was a family man and a "champion of the forgotten man," while Voorhis was a Communist.

In 1948 Nixon became a national figure as a member of the House Committee on Un-American Activities because of his persecution of Alger Hiss, formerly a respected adviser to Franklin D. Roosevelt, as a Soviet spy. Nixon soon saw Communist-hunting as a certain path to political fame. He continued to build his anti-Communist credentials for two terms in Congress, then, after a hostile campaign in which he accused his opponent, Helen Douglas, of being a "pinko communist," he was elected to the U.S. Senate. Douglas had some satisfaction when she gave Nixon the nickname of "Tricky Dick," which would haunt him throughout the rest of his career.

In 1952 Nixon was rewarded for helping to create an Eisenhower majority in California by being placed on the presidential ticket as Ike's running mate. Nixon held on to that position in spite of press reports about the undeclared donations from businessmen that had helped begin his career. He was vice president under Eisenhower for eight years.

In the summer of 1960, Nixon flew to New York for a meeting with Nelson Rockefeller, supposedly a high-ranking Bilderberger member. In an agreement that came to be known as the Compact of Fifth Avenue, Nixon assented to inserting Rockefeller's more moderate policy ideas into the Republican Party platform—some conspiracists saw this as a sellout by Nixon to the New World Order.

While vice president, Nixon became one of the most active "veeps" in American history. He was involved in the Communist witch hunts of Senator Joseph McCarthy, was integral in managing the Suez Crisis of 1954, and met with Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev. The presidency seemed a sure thing for Richard M. Nixon in 1960.

But according to conspiracists, the Illuminati had decided against Nixon's being president right then. They did everything they could to undermine him, from having Eisenhower belittle Nixon's contributions to ensuring that John F. Kennedy looked more presidential in their televised debate.

After Kennedy won the presidential election in 1960, Nixon made an unsuccessful bid for the governorship of California, then moved to New York to become a law partner in the firm of Nelson Rockefeller's personal attorney, John Mitchell. The Nixon family lived in a Fifth Avenue apartment building owned by Rockefeller. From 1961 to 1965 Nixon was a member of the

Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and began to rebuild his political power with the help of the New World Order.

On November 22, 1963, the *Dallas Morning News* contained an unsigned leaflet headlined "Wanted for Treason" and prominently displaying a photo of Kennedy. Researchers later claimed that the incendiary leaflet had been designed at an alleged Pepsi-Cola convention and drafted by attorneys of the Rockefeller law firm of Nixon, Mudge, Rose, Guthrie, and Alexander as a tool to be used in the 1964 presidential campaign. Although no solid proof has ever been forthcoming, many conspiracists are convinced that Nixon had advance knowledge of JFK's assassination. Even more researchers are certain that only the Illuminati had enough power to plan and control a sprawling conspiracy like the one that killed JFK and kept the truth secret.

Researchers believe the Illuminati wanted Kennedy out of the way because he would have ended the U.S. involvement in Vietnam by 1965 (massive oil fields had been discovered off the coast of South Vietnam; also, the war effort promised to be lucrative). Rockefeller created high-level concern that the country would be lost to Communism as Cuba had been. After Kennedy was assassinated, the U.S. involvement in Vietnam escalated and "War Is Good Business" became the motto of those Illuminati and CFR members who made billions from the Vietnam bloodbath.

Was Richard Nixon used by the Illuminati to continue the war in Vietnam and to do their bidding in other ways?

During the 1968 presidential campaign Senator Robert F. Kennedy pledged an honorable end to the conflict in Vietnam, and Martin Luther King Jr. assured him that he would deliver the African American vote. Conspiracy researchers feel that there is little doubt that RFK would have been elected to the presidency and believe that because the ever-war-mongering Illuminati desired to prolong the conflict in Vietnam they saw Nixon as best positioned to perpetuate their goals. Within months, both RFK and MLK had been assassinated in complex conspiracies that have never been satisfactorily resolved—unless one considers the involvement of the shadowy Illuminati.

Once Nixon was in office, his cabinet was hand-picked by the Illuminati themselves.

John Mitchell, Rockefeller's personal attorney, was appointed attorney general; Henry Kissinger was named secretary of state so that the Illuminati could exercise control over U.S. foreign policy. George H. W. Bush was named chairman of the Republican Party and later ambassador to the UN, ambassador to China, and director of CIA. Nixon's loyal friends H. R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman became, respectively, his chief of staff and principal domestic policy adviser.

Although he promised a troop withdrawal from Vietnam, Nixon appeared to be attempting to please his legitimate constituency and the Illuminati overlords at the same time. He gave lip service to an "honorable end to the war" but also launched the secret bombing of Cambodia and encouraged the FBI to launch its infamous COINTELPRO campaign to discredit, disrupt, and disband protest groups. It was also about this time that Nixon installed intricate microphones and taping systems in the White House.

Conspiracy theorists state that Watergate was orchestrated by the Illuminati, who had decided they had no further use for Nixon.

When Nixon opened the *New York Times* on June 12, 1971, to read about his daughter Tricia's wedding, he saw a lovely photograph of Tricia and him in the Rose Garden right next to the first installment of the "Pentagon Papers." Former Department of Defense employee Daniel Ellsberg had leaked forty-seven volumes of top-secret documents that exposed how the U.S. government had lied to the American public about the truth of the Vietnam War. Nixon was furious.

Nixon next ordered a special investigative team called the "plumbers" to get all the dirt on Ellsberg that they could. The plumbers' membership included the top echelon—Nixon, Haldeman, Kissinger, and Ehrlichman—and the lower level: Chuck Colson, a White House attorney; G. Gordon Liddy, counsel to the Committee to Re-elect the President; and E. Howard Hunt, a former CIA agent.

The seed for Watergate can be traced back to 1956 when the flamboyant aviator and Hollywood playboy Howard Hughes supposedly provided Nixon's brother Donald with a secret loan to launch his "Nixonburger" restaurants. Word of this monetary exchange leaked out during the 1960 presidential elections, and the Democrats used it to embarrass Nixon. Later Nixon learned that Democratic Party chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien was being surreptitiously retained by Hughes, and he vowed revenge against O'Brien. After Colson, Liddy, and Hunt managed a successful break-in at the Los Angeles office of Ellsberg's psychiatrist in September 1971, Nixon ordered another at the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the

Watergate apartment complex in Washington, D.C., with the mission of learning any derogatory information that the Democrats might have about the Republicans. The plumbers' special assignment was to place a bug on the DNC chairman's telephone. On May 27, 1972, the plumbers accomplished a successful entry into DNC headquarters. On June 17 they returned and were arrested by police.

Conspiracy theorists state that Watergate was orchestrated by the Illuminati, who had decided they had no further use for Nixon. Bruce Herschenson, a Nixon aide, has said that the Watergate break-in was deliberately sabotaged by "a coalition of power groups." The security chief for the Committee to Re-elect the President, James W. McCord Jr., a former CIA agent, has been accused by some of being a double agent who was responsible for tipping off the police the night of the second break-in.

Though Nixon managed to play innocent initially, after two years of innumerable accusations about the role of the president and several of his aides in the Watergate affair, he resigned in disgrace on August 9, 1974, to avoid impeachment.

Conspiracists list a number of possible reasons why the Illuminati eventually disposed of Nixon:

- Nixon's ego was growing over his foreign policy accomplishments with China, and he was considering dumping Kissinger, the Illuminati's agent in the White House, and assuming complete control.
- After Nixon's first vice president, Spiro Agnew, was forced to resign because of income tax evasion, the Illuminati wanted his successor to be Nelson Rockefeller, should Nixon die in office. Nixon instead named Gerald Ford, who, when he became president upon Nixon's resignation, did appoint Rockefeller to the vice presidency. On September 5, 1974, Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, one of the Charles Manson Family, attempted to shoot President Ford. On September 22, Sara Jane Moore, also a member of Charles Manson's Family, tried to assassinate Ford. When questioned about her motives, Moore said that she was attempting to elevate Nelson Rockefeller to the presidency.
- Nixon was becoming too personally ambitious and believing too greatly in his own power to accomplish change.

A very interesting piece of Nixon tape was revealed on March 23, 2005, by Michael Isikoff and Mark Hosenball of Newsweek/MSNBC. Nixon's White House secretary, Rosemary Woods, was a follower of the psychic/astrologer Jeane Dixon, and on May 4, 1971, she brought the seeress together with her boss for a thirty-six-minute session. During the meeting Dixon said that the Lord intended Nixon to be great and that he was in power now to lead everyone to Christ, the prince of the universe.

About two weeks later, on May 21, 1971, James Reston wrote in the *New York Times* that Nixon "would obviously like to preside over the creation of a new world order."

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NOAH's ARK

There is no question that the remains of Noah's Ark can be found on Mount Ararat—and the CIA has the proof.

So prevalent is the belief that Noah's Ark can be located on the slope of the tallest mountain in Turkey, Agri Dagi (Mount Ararat), that some travel agencies include expeditions to search for the ark as part of their Turkey tour packages. According to the Book of Genesis, God had become angered at the wickedness of humans and was determined "to end all flesh." God called on Noah, whom he deemed a just man, and told him to build a large barge with three interior decks. The barge was to be constructed of wood and sealed with bitumen. Its length was to be 300 cubits (about 450 feet), width 50 cubits (about 75 feet), and height 30 cubits (about 45 feet). The ark, with Noah's family and at least two animals from every species, would be able to survive the deluge through which God would wipe out all other life on earth. After seven months and seventeen days afloat, the ark came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat, near the headwaters of the Euphrates River in what is today eastern Turkey.

Located in modern-day Turkey, Mount Ararat is a dormant volcano that rises 16,854 feet (5,137 meters) above the plain. Many maintain that it is the final resting place of Noah's Ark.

Some biblical scholars locate the final resting place of the ark in Kurdistan, an area that encompasses Mount Ararat and parts of present-day Turkey and Iran. The Babylonian account of the deluge in the Epic of Gilgamesh names Mount Nisir in that region.

As the Christian religion spread in the first century, the Christians of Apamea, in Phrygia, built the Monastery of the Ark, where a feast was celebrated annually to commemorate Noah's disembarking. Marco Polo, in journals of his journey to China in 1271, wrote: "In the heart of Greater Armenia is a very high mountain, shaped like a cube (or cup), on which Noah's ark is said to have rested, whence it is called the Mountain of Noah's Ark."

Several ark sightings on Mount Ararat occurred during the twentieth century. During a thaw in the summer of 1916, a Russian Imperial Air Force lieutenant noticed a half-frozen lake in a gully on the side of Ararat. World War I was raging, and the Russian pilot was flying high-altitude tests to observe Turkish troop movements. Flying nearer to the lake, he saw half the hull of some sort of ship poking out above the surface. He reported it to his captain, who later joined him in a flight over the site. Believing it was Noah's Ark, preserved because it was encased in ice most of the year, the captain sent a report to Tsar Nicholas II at Saint Petersburg. The tsar sent two corps of engineers up the mountain.

It took nearly a month for the Russian engineers to reach the ark. They took measurements and made drawings and photographs, but none of those was ever officially documented. According to accounts, the photographs and reports were sent by courier to the attention of the tsar, but he apparently never received them. The Russian Revolution broke out in 1917, and the results of the investigation were never reported publicly.

In 1959 the Turkish Air Force conducted an aerial survey of the Ararat region. A photograph revealed the outline of a ship on one of the lower slopes (at just over 6,000 feet) of Mount Ararat. The ship's dimensions resembled, but were somewhat larger than, those of the biblical ark. Another alleged aerial sighting occurred in 1960: a Turkish army pilot and a liaison officer reported seeing evidence of an enormous, rectangular barge on the southeast slope at about 13,000 feet.

During the 1950s Noah's Ark expeditions from the West were considered a security threat by the Soviet government, whose territory bordered the region. Those who defied the Soviets' displeasure found that the rugged environment made it difficult to sustain an expedition.

A 1973 satellite photograph revealed an unusual feature, reportedly similar in size to the ark, at 14,000 feet on Mount Ararat. But when ark researchers requested copies of the satellite image, they received a standard reply: "No responsive records."

In the 1980s the former NASA astronaut James Irwin participated in expeditions up the mountain, bringing much publicity to the search for the ark. He found only the remnants of abandoned skis.

With the breakup of the former Soviet Union, expeditions up the mountain intensified during the 1990s. In 1992 Charles P. Aaron, who identified himself as the leader of an expedition searching for Noah's Ark sponsored by the Tsirah Corporation, asked the CIA for assistance. The CIA responded to Aaron's request on January 21, 1993, by cryptically stating that an examination of the pictures that the Agency had taken of Ararat could not distinctly identify an ark.

Conspiracy theorists interpreted this response to mean that the CIA had found something under the ice and snow of Ararat that had not yet been completely identified. Continued pressure produced a comment from the deputy director of the CIA's Science and Technology Department, who said in February 7, 1994, that the pictures of the remains on Ararat could not be identified as Noah's Ark. The report concluded by stating that, at that time, no attempts would be made to organize additional research in the region of Ararat.

Ark researchers seized upon the CIA's declaration of no "additional research" as clear indication that the Agency had conducted expeditions to Ararat in the past. In a follow-up response on February 16, the CIA stated that in order to make an exhaustive analysis of the pictures, all images made with different technical facilities during the past thirty years must be examined. When this exhaustive task had been completed, documents and photos would be declassified.

Because the world still awaits a satisfying analysis of all photographs taken of the ark's alleged remains, conspiracy theorists are certain that immediately after the end of World War II, the CIA began collecting evidence about the mysterious object hidden beneath the snow and ice on Ararat's slope. According to this theory, a secret expedition sent to Turkey by the U.S. government found the remains of Noah's Ark, quietly removed them from Ararat, and delivered them to a U.S. military base. For some unknown reasons, perhaps linked to the shadow government and the New World Order, the CIA has not yet declassified the most important religious, scientific, and archaeological discovery of the century.

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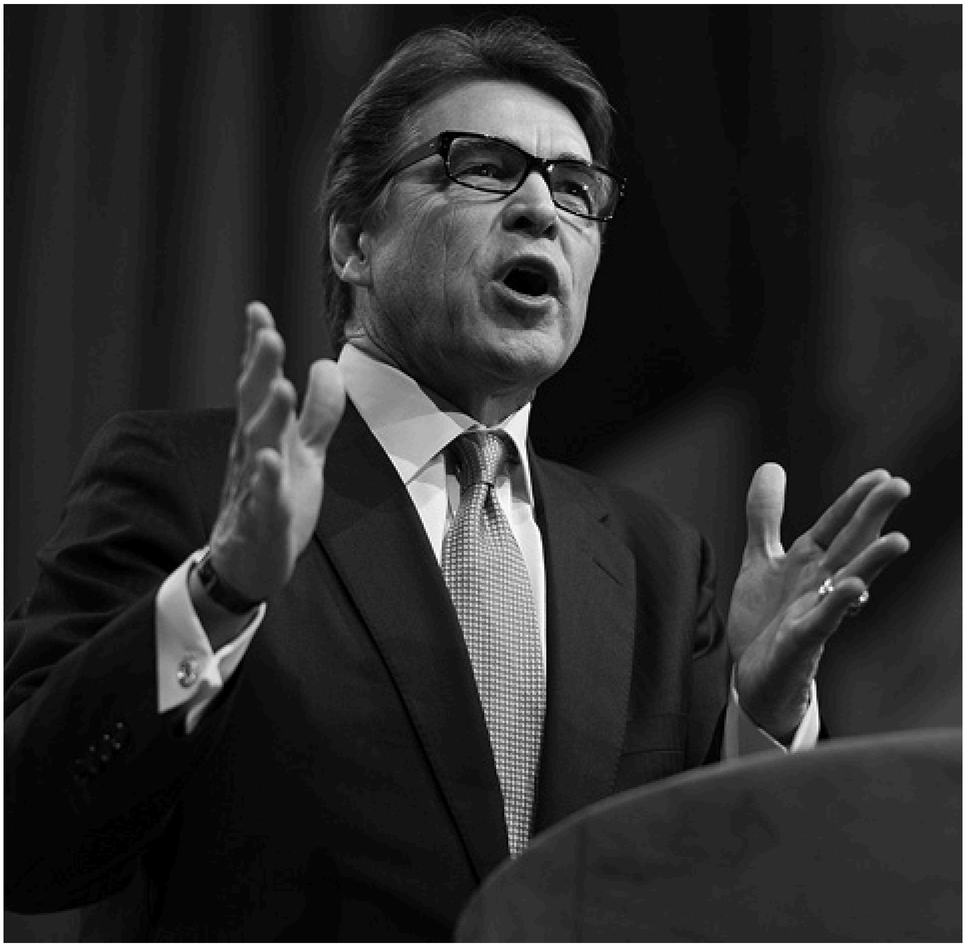
NORTH AMERICAN UNION

A plan for a shockingly big superhighway raised fears that the governments of Canada, Mexico, and the United States are planning to create a continent-spanning supernation and an end to American sovereignty.

Eminent domain is one of the most sweeping powers that governments give themselves. Even under seemingly normal circumstances, when a local municipality is claiming it to build a new highway exit ramp, it has the potential to upset people who believe their rights are being trampled on. So, in the early and mid-2000s, when talk swirled that the state of Texas was planning to build something called the Trans–Texas Corridor that would potentially involve seizing up to a half-million acres of land by eminent domain, it is not surprising that an uproar occurred.

What is known about the corridor sounds like something that a roomful of public works engineers might come up with after a few too many espressos. When Texas governor Rick Perry unveiled it in 2002, the project involved a 4,000-mile-long tangle of highways, railroad tracks, and utility lines that would be at certain points 1,200 feet wide, potentially cost over

$180 billion, and take a half century to build. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, the stated purpose for the monstrous "multiuse transportation system" was to "move people and freight faster and more safely through Texas, from Mexico to the Oklahoma border."



Rick Perry, then governor of Texas, planned to construct a 4,000-mile-long string of highways throughout the state, but he was opposed by those who said it was just a plot to funnel money to foreign interests.

But given the potential grab of so much land, the involvement of foreign companies in the project and existing fears about eroding borders suggested something far more nefarious. In 2006, Texan congressman and semi-pro-conspiracist Ron Paul warned that the corridor was just the first step of a plan hatched by "an unholy alliance" of foreign interests whose ultimate goal was "an integrated North American Union—complete with a currency, a cross-national bureaucracy, and virtually borderless travel within the Union."

Conspiracy theorists like Jerome Corsi heartily spread the idea of Canada, Mexico, and the United States having their borders erased, becoming one supernation linked by a super-superhighway and a single currency called the Amero. In this line of thinking, trade talks held between Canada, Mexico, and the United States were just a decoy, and the fact that part of the corridor was simply an upgrade to existing highways was beside the point. In an update of older fears about the United Nations taking over North America, some claimed that a 2005 meeting in Texas where U.S. president George W. Bush, Mexican president Vicente Fox, and

Canadian prime minister Paul Martin discussed increased cooperation was, in fact, the end of American sovereignty.

The Trans–Texas Corridor was eventually abandoned under a hailstorm of acrimony. But concerns remained, particularly among groups that fear increased immigration and the subsuming of the United States into a larger, borderless European Union-like sprawl.

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OBAMA CONSPIRACIES

President Barack Obama has been the subject of many conspiracy theories, from claims that he was not actually born in the United States to those who say he is secretly a Muslim or possibly even associated with extraterrestrials.

Most modern U.S. presidents have some conspiracy theories attached to them. But generally, in the cases of Bill Clinton or George W. Bush, they come up after the president is in office and has some at least nominal connection to events. When Barack Obama was elected president in 2008, he was heralded in many parts of the country as the nation's first black president. Even the most idealistic citizens, though, were not surprised at the virulence of the conspiracy theories which sprung up seemingly out of nowhere, frequently and often openly suspicious of little more than his mixed Anglo American and Kenyan ethnicity.

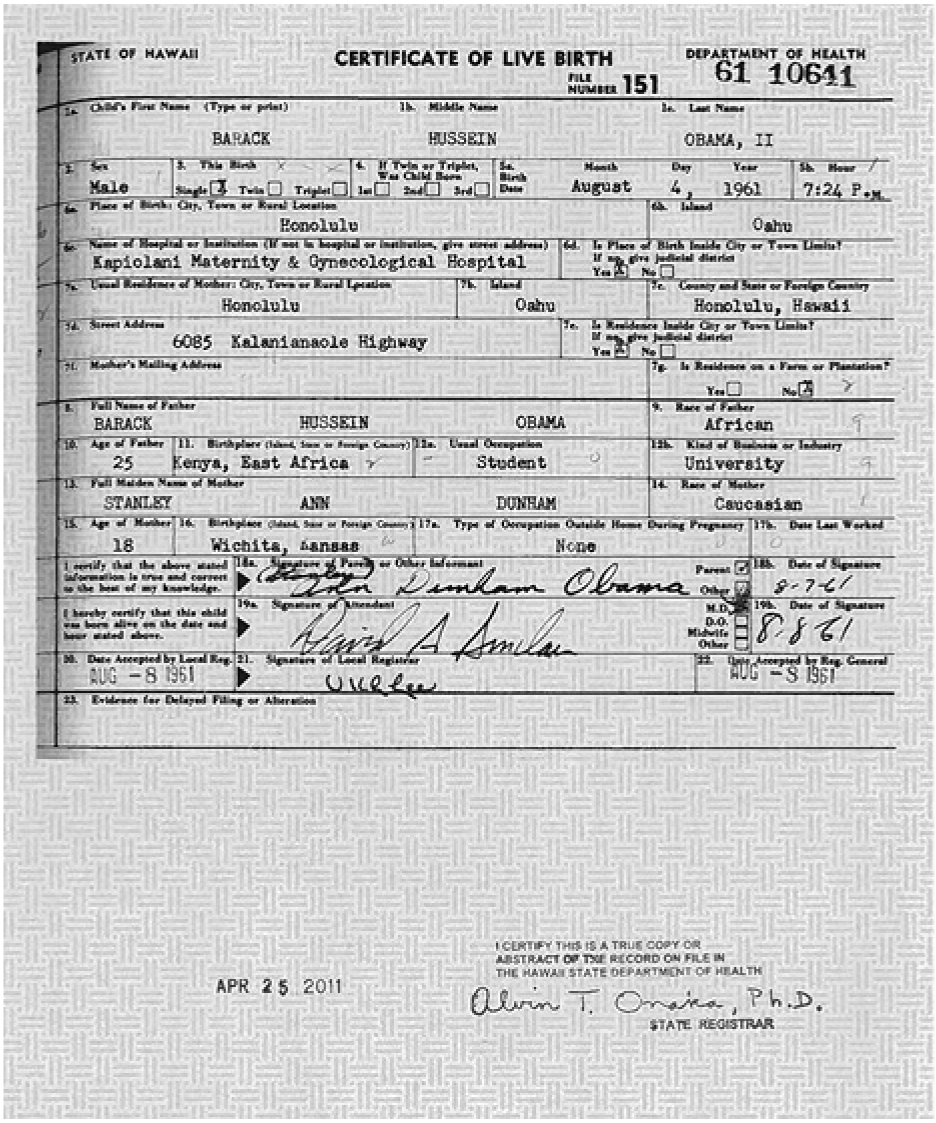
Among the conspiracies leveled against President Obama by impassioned theorists are the following:

- Barack Obama was born in Mombasa, Kenya, to a Jewish mother, Stanley Anne Dunham, who was a CIA agent; his grandfather, Lord Barach, is Jewish. On his paternal side, Obama's grandfather was a powerful witchdoctor of the Luo tribe. Madelyn Payne Dunham, Obama's maternal grandmother, was a vice-president at the Bank of Hawaii and worked closely with Peter Geithner, father of Timothy, Obama's selection for Treasurer.
- Obama has no birth certificate to prove he is an American citizen, which if true would make him ineligible to run for president of the United States. There is no proof who his father is or even who his real mother is. There is strong evidence that Stanley Anne Dunham may have adopted Barry. Stanley Anne Dunham became a communist and

entered into a relationship with Frank Davis, a communist zealot, who may well be Obama's real father.

- Little Barry was lawfully adopted by Lolo Soetoro after Stanley Anne Dunham's marriage to the Indonesian citizen, and the boy's name was legally changed to Barry Soetoro. Lolo, who may be Barry's real father, reared the boy as a Muslim, but Barry attended a Catholic-sponsored nondenominational school.
- Obama is the illegitimate son of Jo Ann Newman, a white teenage girl from the Bronx, who had an affair with Malcolm X. Obama's true birth name is Bari M. Shabazz and he was born October 10, 1959.

Barack Obama's birth records have public for years. His father is recorded as Barack Hussein Obama, African; his mother, Stanley Ann Dunham, was Caucasian. Obama's birthdate is officially August 8, 1961; his name: Barack Hussein Obama II. Birthplace: Oahu, Honolulu. Additional evidence of his Hawaii birth is available in birth announcements published in August 1961 in two Hawaiian newspapers. Nevertheless, so-called "Birthers" continue refuse to accept the birth certificate and documentation provided by the Department of Health in Honolulu. One of the most prominent and committed Birthers was onetime real estate magnate and future president (and avid conspiracist) Donald Trump.



STATE OF HAWAII

CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH

FILE NUMBER 151

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH 61 10641

1a. Child's First Name (Type or print): BARACK
1b. Middle Name: HUSSEIN
1c. Last Name: OBAMA, II
2. Sex: Male
3. This Birth: Single ☒ Twin ☐ Triplet ☐
4. If Twin or Triplet, Was Child Born: 1st ☐ 2nd ☐ 3rd ☐
5a. Birth Date: Month August Day 4, Year 1961
5b. Hour: 7:24 P.M.
6a. Place of Birth: City, Town or Rural Location: Honolulu
6b. Island: Oahu
6c. Name of Hospital or Institution (If not in hospital or institution, give street address): Kapiolani Maternity & Gynecological Hospital
6d. Is Place of Birth Inside City or Town Limits? If no, give judicial district: Yes ☒ No ☐
7a. Usual Residence of Mother: City, Town or Rural Location: Honolulu
7b. Island: Oahu
7c. County and State or Foreign Country: Honolulu, Hawaii
7d. Street Address: 6085 Kalanianaole Highway
7e. Is Residence Inside City or Town Limits? If no, give judicial district: Yes ☒ No ☐
7f. Mother's Mailing Address:
7g. Is Residence on a Farm or Plantation? Yes ☐ No ☒
8. Full Name of Father: BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA
9. Race of Father: African
10. Age of Father: 25
11. Birthplace (Island, State or Foreign Country): Kenya, East Africa
12a. Usual Occupation: Student
12b. Kind of Business or Industry: University
13. Full Maiden Name of Mother: STANLEY ANN DUNHAM
14. Race of Mother: Caucasian
15. Age of Mother: 18
16. Birthplace (Island, State or Foreign Country): Wichita, Kansas
17a. Type of Occupation Outside Home During Pregnancy: None
17b. Date Last Worked:
I certify that the above stated information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
18a. Signature of Parent or Other Informant: Ann Dunham Obama — Parent ☑ Other ☐
18b. Date of Signature: 8-7-61
I hereby certify that this child was born alive on the date and hour stated above.
19a. Signature of Attendant: David A Sinclair — M.D. ☒ D.O. ☐ Midwife ☐ Other ☐
19b. Date of Signature: 8-8-61
20. Date Accepted by Local Reg.: AUG -8 1961
21. Signature of Local Registrar:
22. Date Accepted by Reg. General: AUG -8 1961
23. Evidence for Delayed Filing or Alteration:

APR 25 2011

I CERTIFY THIS IS A TRUE COPY OR ABSTRACT OF THE RECORD ON FILE IN THE HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Alvin T. Onaka, Ph.D.
STATE REGISTRAR

President Obama does have a birth certificate, and it shows that he was born in Hawaii, which means he was, indeed, eligible to be a U.S. president, yet still Birthers refuse to accept the document as legitimate.

Conspiracy theorists delight in their ability somehow to track genealogical records that indicate that many of the world leaders have been related for hundreds of years, thus implying that some shadow group such as the Illuminati seeks to control the hearts and minds of those governing the masses. Other theorists are convinced that many of the U.S. presidents are related and have an undisclosed Jewish heritage and membership in a secret occult society. As a result, some Obama conspiracists place their focus here:

- Through a common ancestor, Mareen Duvall, Obama's maternal grandfather, Stanley Armour Dunham, a furniture salesman from Kansas, was a distant cousin to six U.S. Presidents—James Madison, Harry Truman, Lyndon B. Johnson, Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush. Dunham is also related to Vice President Dick Cheney through an eighth cousin once removed.
- From the age of ten, Barry Soetoro was cared for by his maternal grandparents in Honolulu. He was raised Unitarian, which, much like the Freemasons and Judaism, is fertile ground for finding recruits for the New World Order, according to conspiracists.

Right-wing detractors of Obama were extremely active in their efforts to soil his image. Conspiracy theories about Obama spread at lightning speed during the 2008 election and continued afterward, portraying him as anything from an academic fraud to a drug addict, criminal, and a closeted gay man who is thusly susceptible to blackmail by former lovers seeking to profit from his position as the president:

- Obama has a criminal record. Barry Soetoro did drugs and flunked out of Occidental College in California. He made his way to New York, where he lived as a homeless addict on the streets until a Pakistani boyfriend traveled with Barry back to Indonesia. When he returned to the United States, he began using the name Barack Hussein Obama in order to file his federal income taxes in Connecticut. At the same time, he secured a social security number from his grandmother, who worked in the probate office in a Honolulu courthouse and had access to the numbers of deceased individuals. Obama was given the number of Jean Paul Ludwig, who died in 1961 (which came after the date that Barack Obama registered for the draft, so there is no way that his grandmother could have given him Ludwig's social security number).
- Obama ordered a fake diploma from Columbia from a "diploma mill" and lied his way into Harvard, even though he had no actual transcripts to prove his academic background. This deceit accounts for the bizarre fact that none of the students who would likely have taken classes with Obama can remember seeing him at Columbia. Later, he embellished his position as a professor of law, and when he moved to Chicago and fell in love with Michelle, she helped him pass the bar and got him a job with her law firm. (Actually, a number of individuals have come forward and spoken of their time as Obama's roommates or fellow students at Columbia and Harvard. And then there is Obama's term as the first African American editor of the *Harvard Law Review* in 1990, the highest student position at Harvard Law School.)

The idea that extraterrestrial reptilian overlords are seeking to conquer Earth is common among a number of UFO conspiracy buffs. Some theorists add British royalty and other leading European political figures as agents of the reptilians—who, in some cases, are actually reptilians in disguise. Leaders like Obama are also thrown into the mix as the aliens continue subverting the world's ruling class:

- Obama is an alien—a hybrid human—created from the DNA of a human mother and the sperm of an extraterrestrial visitor. Obama, a prize alien-hybrid, was created and tutored to become president of the United States by reptilian overlords and their human New World Order counterparts as an integral element in their plan of planetary dominance.

Many evangelical right-wing Christians who believe in an imminent End-Times-Apocalypse scenario have painted a portrait of a sinister and possibly world-ending Obama. Such a devilish precursor to Judgment Day as the Antichrist was considered very much a fringe belief held by a minority of conservative Christians 150 years ago. But today such beliefs are more mainstream in conservative religious circles, including this conspiracy theory:

- Obama is the Antichrist, who will bring about a one-world government, a one-world religion, and a one-world economy before Jesus returns to defeat him at the climatic battle of Armageddon.

The panic over Obama's presidency from some conspiracy researchers was so intense that he was ultimately seen as behind many of the most widespread theories of the early 21st century:

- Obama planned a fake raid on Osama bin Laden's hideout to bolster his approval ratings.
- Obama used hypnosis to win votes.
- Though known as a writer before becoming president—his memoir *Dreams from My Father* came out in 1995—all of his books and even his love letters to a college girlfriend were ghostwritten.

The theory that President Obama is the Antichrist does not seem to have played out, even years after he left the Oval Office.

- He planned to confiscate Americans' gold and guns, and also wanted to herd his enemies into prison camps run by FEMA, though never got around to doing any of that during his eight years as president.

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THE OCTOPUS

Long before the concept of the “Deep State” had been popularized, a dogged investigator believed that he had uncovered a similarly far-reaching and insidious conspiracy that subverted the will of the people.

For Danny Casolaro, it all started with a software system. A freelance writer who specialized in trade newsletters, Casolaro started working on a story in 1990 about a seemingly unexciting topic: the U.S. Department of Justice had hired a company called Inslaw to develop a computer program named PROMIS that would make it easier for prosecutors to track cases and possibly interact with other databases. That seemingly straightforward arrangement turned contentious, with Inslaw accusing the Department of Justice of breach of contract.

Casolaro continued pulling at this thread. Sources informed him that PROMIS was, in fact, to be used by agencies around the world, with a programmed back door that would allow access to information on millions of people for anybody who had the key.

Who had the key? That was what Casolaro wanted to find out. He soon uncovered what he saw as a disturbing knot of connections between the Inslaw case, Area 51, organized crime, the Wackenhut corporation (a notorious private security firm stocked with ex-FBI and CIA types who are charged with doing dirty work for the New World Order), the Contras, the Cabazon Indian reservation in the California desert, the Watergate “plumbers,” the CIA’s Operation Phoenix assassination program, and the Reagan administration’s conspiracy to delay the release of the Tehran embassy hostages in order to win the 1980 presidential election.

Casolaro dug deeper into the string-pulling, secret-government conspiracy whose multitentacled expanse—starting with postwar OSS–CIA–Nazi connections that were threaded throughout international drug syndicates, the Yakuza, the Bay of Pigs, banking systems, mercenary operatives, arms dealers, and secret, elite societies like Skull and Bones, all of whom had vested interests in leveraging the intelligence offered by a system like PROMIS—led him to call it the Octopus. Believing that other conspiracists got lost in the fog of different players (intelligence agencies, shell companies), he believed that he had identified a nucleus of eight men who had been pulling the world’s strings for decades from behind the scenes.

Casolaro grew concerned about the many people with connections to the case who seemed to be dying at a suspicious rate. Then, on August 10, 1991, a housekeeper at a hotel in Martinsburg, West Virginia, discovered Casolaro’s bloodied corpse in the bathtub. The official story was that he had slashed his wrists and left a suicide note. It seemed possible that he had become so despondent over the dark forces arrayed against him that the way forward seemed hopeless. But the fact that he had just recently been telling people that he was getting close to sewing up his investigation made the death suspicious.

Those concerns were not limited to people in conspiracy circles, however. In August 1992, a House Judiciary Committee draft report of an investigation into Casolaro’s death concluded that his investigation "brought him in contact with a number of dangerous individuals associated with organized crime and the world of covert intelligence operations" and recommended that "it is imperative that further investigation be conducted."

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OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

Timothy McVeigh was executed for the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City and Terry Nichols is behind bars for life, but conspiracy theorists insist that the two men were patsies for a sinister shadow agency.

On April 19, 1995, at 9:02 A.M., the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was destroyed in a massive explosion, killing 168 people, including nineteen children. This happened exactly two years to the day after the final attack by federal law-enforcement agencies on the Branch Davidian compound at Waco ended in fiery death for the compound's occupants. The Murrah Building housed the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Defense Investigative Service, the Social Security Administration, the U.S. Army and Marines recruiting offices, and a day-care center. The explosion collapsed one-third of the building, and the bomb crater was thirty feet wide and eight feet deep.

At 10:20 A.M. sixty miles north of the scene of death and destruction, Officer Charles Hangar stopped a 1977 yellow Mercury without license plates speeding at 80 miles an hour outside of Perry, Oklahoma. The driver was Timothy James McVeigh, who, in spite of being armed with a .45-caliber Glock pistol and a hunting knife, calmly surrendered. He was booked in Noble County for driving without license plates and carrying a concealed weapon. A police check revealed McVeigh's past as a decorated U.S. Army veteran who served with distinction in the Gulf War. McVeigh carried a phone debit card issued to the *Spotlight*, the conspiracy publication of the anti-Semitic Liberty Lobby. Two days later McVeigh was charged with the worst terrorist action carried out on U.S. soil prior to September 11, 2001.

ALLIED
STEEL
CRANE RENTAL
65
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Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols conspired to blow up the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City as revenge against the Feds' actions against the Branch Davidians.

Within another few days, a search by the ATF yielded blasting caps, sixty-foot detonator cords, ammonium nitrate, nitrogen fertilizer, and fifty-five-gallon plastic drums on a farm owned by Terry Nichols. Nichols and his brother James were members of the Michigan Militia, an apocalyptic right-wing group who believed that a United Nations invasion of America was imminent. Later, it would be discovered that McVeigh was a frequent visitor to Elohim City, a religious commune near the Oklahoma-Arkansas border. It was apparent to government investigators that the perpetrators of the Murrah bombing were right-wing, home-grown terrorists. (A jury of McVeigh's peers eventually agreed, and he was executed in 2001.)

A great number of conspiracy theorists believe that the FBI covered up a Middle East connection to the Oklahoma City bombing in order to make the terrible act appear to be domestic terrorism. In a *Chicago Tribune* article printed two days after the bombing, acting CIA director Vice Admiral William O. Studeman was quoted as saying that the bombing of the Murrah Building illustrated "the true globalization of the terrorist threat." Studeman, as well as many other authorities quoted at that time, suggested that McVeigh and Nichols had had help from foreign agents.

Some have argued that the bombers had help specifically from Middle Easterners connected to the 1993 World Trade Center attack and that Nichols met with Iraqi members of an al-Qaeda cell in the Philippines. Other sources claim that al-Qaeda leader Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri was in Oklahoma City in 1995. The FBI and CIA supposedly knew about these connections but did not act on or publicize them.

Allegations have surfaced that several Oklahoma City bombing survivors, particularly emergency workers, were murdered in suspicious circumstances—Oklahoma City police officers Terrance Yeakey, Gordon Martin, and Ken Griffin; a number of Oklahoma City firefighters; Dr. H. Don Chumley; U.S. General Services Administration employee Mike Loudenslager; and others.

In the weeks preceding the bombing, Loudenslager supposedly became increasingly anxious because of the large amounts of ordnance and explosives stored in the Murrah Building. Loudenslager and the day-care center operator told many of the parents to get their children out, and because of their warnings, far fewer children were in the day-care center on April 19 than there otherwise would have been.

Shortly after the terrible blast, Loudenslager was actively helping in the rescue and recovery effort. During the early rescue efforts, however, he was seen in a heated argument with someone from the ATF, accusing the agency of being largely responsible for the bombing. To the amazement of many police officers and rescue workers, it was later reported that Loudenslager's body had been found inside the Murrah Building, still at his desk. He is also officially listed as one of the 168 bombing fatalities.

Several witnesses claim that ATF employees were advised to stay home on that fateful Wednesday morning.

Was Loudenslager murdered and placed at his desk? Or was he only said to have been found at his desk? Access to the inside of the building, from after the bombing onward, was extremely limited by the FBI.

Another point of contention for some conspiracists is the alleged nature of the bomb used by McVeigh. Some argue that a homemade fertilizer bomb packed inside a truck parked outside the building could not have delivered destructive force sufficient to render the damage that it allegedly caused. The recent release of a secret Pentagon report prepared by General Benton K. Partin on July 30, 1995, refueled the flames of that debate. Partin saw evidence of an "inside job," and arguing that there is evidence to indicate explosive charges were placed inside the building. The truck bomb was insufficient to destroy the columns, but it was responsible for ripping out some floors at the second- and third-floor levels.

Several witnesses claim that ATF employees were advised to stay home on that fateful Wednesday morning. While ATF denies such accounts, the grim fact remains that there were no ATF employees among the 168 dead.

Jayna Davis, an Oklahoma City television reporter, arrived at the Murrah Building thirteen minutes after the bombing. She theorized a Middle Eastern connection based on her contention that six thousand Iraqis sought political asylum after surrendering during the first Gulf War. After being given asylum in the United States, the Iraqis were not tracked. Some among them were false defectors whose mission was to infiltrate the United States and form terrorist cells. Of the six thousand defectors, eighty were in Oklahoma City by the time of the bombing. Davis believed that eight of those eighty were fully involved in the bombing plot, and said she had testimony of twenty-two Arabs who witnessed that subversive activity. The Middle Eastern tie-in was endorsed by former CIA director Woolsey in a court case. But after Davis turned in her paperwork to the FBI, they "lost" all of it and nothing was presented at the McVeigh and Nichols trials. Davis presented her findings and theories in her book *The Third Terrorist: The Middle East Connection to the Oklahoma City Bombing* (2005).

Conspiracy theorists maintain that McVeigh and Nichols were recruited by al-Qaeda because both men were angry at the military and U.S. government for a variety of reasons. This theory would add the two to the long list of patsies utilized by shadow agencies to accomplish their sinister master plan.

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OPERATION GLADIO

After the end of World War II, the Allies created a secret army to stop a communist takeover of Europe.

Once Nazi Germany was defeated, the Allied powers began the process of demobilizing much of the military apparatus they had built up for World War II. They established the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to create a unified front for defense. However, they knew that the ascendant Soviet Union had little intention of downgrading its military. Knowing that NATO would not be able to match the Soviets soldier for soldier, tank for tank, Western intelligence agencies like the CIA and MI6 organized "stay-behind" networks throughout Europe, which they hoped could help with the imbalance.

Not made public until 1990, Operation Gladio (as it was known in Italy) was a network of paramilitary groups set up in countries ranging from Switzerland to Germany, Greece to Sweden. The groups stockpiled weapons and planned to create guerrilla networks who could carry out insurgent attacks on Soviet occupiers in the aftermath of a successful invasion. They dug bunkers, trained with the Green Berets, and waited to be called to duty.

But even though the stay-behind networks were designed to remain quiet, training in secret until they were needed, in reality, they sometimes took part in Cold War skirmishes. The CIA often recruited from organized crime groups like the Mafia (being stridently anticommunist, they were viewed as the lesser of the two evils) and far-right groups with fascist tendencies. The stay-behind networks were linked to terror attacks in Italy, torture of dissidents, political subversion, and even assassinations.

With the expressed mission of learning more about sexual behavior under LSD, Operation Midnight Climax set up a number of apartments to be used for sexual encounters.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, many European countries disbanded the networks. It is believed, though, that some arms caches were left in place for future emergencies.

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OPERATION MIDNIGHT CLIMAX

It wasn't Candid Camera behind those two-way mirrors, but the CIA, filming unsuspecting, unwilling, LSD-drugged men having sex with prostitutes.

The CIA's experiments with mind-control known as MK-Ultra were begun on the orders of CIA director Allen Dulles in 1953 and headed by Dr. Sidney Gottlieb. Many of the early tests focused on drugs that might become "truth serums" for interrogations of prisoners, and were performed with volunteers, very often military personnel, government agents, and CIA employees. When experiments with LSD seemed productive, Dr. Gottlieb exercised the carte blanche given him by Dulles and began to experiment with the powerful hallucinogen's effects on unsuspecting individuals. Curiosity about the use of the drug as an aid in sexual entrapment in covert operations led to the development of Operation Midnight Climax, known officially as MK-Ultra Subproject-3.

At first CIA agents attended large outdoor gatherings, such as ball games and concerts in the park, and clandestinely sprayed private citizens with LSD in containers labeled as insect repellent. Later, agents would infiltrate private cocktail parties and spray the unsuspecting guests with LSD in containers marked as deodorant or perfume.

With the expressed mission of learning more about sexual behavior under LSD, Operation Midnight Climax set up a number of apartments to be used for sexual encounters. Prostitutes in the employ of the agency would solicit unsuspecting men and slip LSD in their drinks before returning with them to the apartments and having sex. Two-way mirrors allowed the researchers to observe the responses and reactions of the men while under the influence of the drug. After a period of interpreting the one-on-one drug reactions of the prostitutes' clients, Midnight Climax established several brothels in Greenwich Village and San Francisco in order to study the drug-induced sexual behavior of a larger cross section of men. Two-way mirrors once again permitted the CIA researchers to film the prostitutes and their LSD-dosed clients for later interpretation.

In 1972 CIA director Richard Helms ordered the records of MK-Ultra and all its various subprojects destroyed. Nevertheless, in 1975, a Senate investigating committee found enough information about Operation Midnight Climax to observe not only that it was unconscionable to conduct drug experiments on subjects without their knowledge or consent, but that there had been no medical prescreening of any kind. The Senate committee was also shocked to discover that most of the investigators behind those two-way mirrors had no medical credentials nor were they qualified scientific observers. In fact, there were no medical personnel present to respond to any kind of negative reaction that a subject might have to the drug and no follow-up was conducted on the subjects to ascertain what continuing effects the LSD might have on their lives. The experiments had been conducted on unaware private citizens without any concern for any possible embarrassment that might arise from the manner in which they were "solicited" for the "experiment," or for any possible aftereffects that might have resulted in possible hallucinations or in situations wherein the subject may have injured or endangered himself or others.

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OPERATION NORTHWOODS

At one point, the U.S. military was so eager to invade Cuba that they drew up a plan to stage deadly attacks on Americans to create a pretext for war.

A point in the early 1960s occurred when the fever pitch for war against Cuba seemed to consume a significant part of the American security establishment. Fidel Castro's overthrow of the U.S.-friendly Batista regime, the nationalization of businesses, and friendly overtures to the Soviet Union had frightened Washington. To eliminate this unprecedented communist beachhead in the Western Hemisphere, a sabotage campaign known as Operation Mongoose engaged in extensive but unsuccessful attempts to undermine the Castro regime. The failure of Mongoose and the embarrassment of the Bay of Pigs invasion convinced anticommunist hardliners that more inventive means were required.

In March 1962, the Joint Chiefs of Staff presented Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara with a plan codenamed Operation Northwoods to create an excuse for America to launch direct military action against Cuba. Some of the plan's original documents, entitled *Justification for US Military Intervention in Cuba*, were chock full of ideas for starting a war, including:

- Creating a "Remember the Maine"-type incident, such as the report "We could blow up a U.S. ship in Guantanamo Bay and blame Cuba," and including possible mock funerals.

- Developing a "communist Cuban terror campaign" that could include setting off bombs in public places and sinking "a boatload of Cubans en route to Florida (real or simulated)."
- Blowing up the rocket carrying astronaut John Glenn.
- Flying a drone, which had been repainted and numbered to look like a passenger aircraft, over Cuban airspace and after broadcasting radio messages about being under attack by Cuban MIG fighters, exploding it via remote control to make it appear to have been shot down.

Though the plans never left the drawing board, after being declassified in the 1990s, Operation Northwoods was featured prominently in the 9/11 truther documentary *Loose Change* as proof of what the U.S. government was capable of at least imagining itself doing.

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OPERATION PAPERCLIP

Immediately after Nazi Germany's defeat, as many as 1,600 Nazi scientists and their dependents were smuggled into the United States by Operation Paperclip.

Many claims were made about Nazi secret weapons during World War II, including nuclear power and flying-saucer-type aircraft. Regardless of the credence one puts into such claims (the Vril Society had a saucer-shaped antigravity craft by 1934, etc.) there was no question among the Allies that prior to the outbreak of the war, Nazi technology had been superior to theirs. If the glowing "foo fighters" that harried Allied airmen were not the products of Nazi technology, the V-2 rockets, prototypes of jet airplanes, and the discovery of particle/laser-beam weaponry certainly were. The U.S. War Department decreed that the United States should scoop up as many German scientists and specimens of their work as possible.

A group photo of 104 rocket scientists, including Wernher von Braun (front row, eleventh from the left), brought in from Germany to work for the United States. This photo was taken at Fort Bliss, Texas, in 1946.

Maj. Gen. Hugh Knerr, deputy commanding general for administration of U.S. strategic forces in Europe, surveyed the German scientific and industrial establishments and acknowledged that America was "alarmingly backward" in many areas of research. He agreed with the suggestion that the U.S. occupation force should seize both the Nazis' research "apparatus and the brains" that created it and put them back to work as soon as possible—or the United States would remain several years behind.

But while the Allied leadership thought that the German scientists and their families should be taken to U.S. shores as soon as possible (preferably before the Soviets, who were also snatching up Nazi scientists, got to them), it had been made a law that no former member of the Nazi Party could immigrate to America. Even a cursory examination of the 1,600 scientists and their dependents who had been assembled for immediate relocation in the United States yielded the predictable finding that at least 1,200 of them had been members of the Nazi Party. Informed of this, President Harry S. Truman decided that America's national interest took precedent and pronounced that only those who had been more than nominal Nazis or had actively supported their military efforts would be denied entrance to the United States.

The operation still had to be conducted in utmost secrecy. The war had been costly and bitter, with many American lives lost. The American public would not respond favorably to the knowledge that many of the Nazi scientists being given a free ride to the States had worked in laboratories and factories that were located in Nazi slave labor and death camps. The operation was conducted by the Joint Intelligence Objectives Agency, and the scientists and their family members who were selected to be taken to the United States had paperclips binding their scientific papers to the standard immigration forms, hence the name "Operation Paperclip."

Operation Paperclip was not made public until 1973, after the first astronauts had set foot on the moon, when the participation of such individuals as Wernher von Braun and many of his German colleagues were acknowledged as having been integral to the success of the U.S.

space program. Von Braun's mentor, Hermann Oberth, widely recognized as the "father of modern rocketry," also entered the United States under Operation Paperclip, as did Dr. Hubertus Strughold, the "father of space medicine." In 1977 the Aeromedical Library at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine was named after Strughold. In 1984 Arthur Rudolph, who had been awarded NASA's Distinguished Service Award in 1969, left the United States rather than face charges for Nazi war crimes.

Operation Paperclip also allowed entrance to the United States to Reinhard Gehlen, Nazi intelligence mastermind, who helped Allen Dulles restructure the OSS (Office of Strategic Services) into the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA); Klaus Barbie, the "Butcher of Lyon"; Otto von Bolschwing, infamous for Holocaust abuses; and SS colonel Otto Skorzeny.

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OPERATION RESURRECTION

Secret experiments were conducted on apes in hope of resurrecting them after they had been decapitated and had their heads and bodies switched.

In this secret project, implemented in 1965–66, the CIA replicated the isolation chamber that had been constructed earlier by Dr. Donald Ewen Cameron, the "brain butcher," at the Allen Memorial Psychiatric Institute in Montreal and rebuilt it at the National Institutes of Health. A psychologist who had helped the Office of Special Services (OSS) interrogate Nazi prisoners during World War II, Cameron became intrigued by the experiments conducted on concentration camp prisoners by German doctors. He later contracted to work for the OSS, which became the CIA in 1947, on behavior manipulation. He continued this specialty in Projects Bluebird and Artichoke, which became MK-Ultra in 1953. Cameron conducted numerous experiments in sensory deprivation, sensory overload, and drug inducement. His harsh experiments with electroshock, LSD, and drug-induced comas that sometimes lasted for months, as well as his penchant for performing prefrontal lobotomies, proved far too extreme for some of his "patients," and many of them died.

The apes that were not selected for possible resurrection from the dead were bombarded with radio waves until they collapsed and became unconscious.

In Operation Resurrection the experiments would not be with humans, but with apes. The apes were first lobotomized, then placed in total isolation. After a time, the experimenters, adapting the radio telemetry techniques developed by Leonard Rubenstein, directed radio waves into the brains of the apes. Apes who appeared to receive the frequencies were decapitated and their heads transplanted to other apes' bodies to see if the radio energy could bring them back to life—thus, Operation Resurrection. The apes that were not selected for possible resurrection from the dead were bombarded with radio waves until they collapsed and became unconscious. Autopsies yielded the information that their brain tissue appeared literally to have been fried.

It is difficult to see how Operation Resurrection could possibly have produced information of any value to any study of behavior control, behavior modification, or mind control. Researchers will probably never know the rationale behind the belief that dead apes could be resurrected if you switched heads and bodies, for in 1972 the director of the CIA, Richard Helms, ordered all records of MK-Ultra's projects, operations, and subprojects destroyed.

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ORDER OF THE GOLDEN DAWN

With such prominent members as Aleister Crowley, the "Beast 666," the Order of the Golden Dawn has a dark reputation as a secret society of sinister magicians.

During its glory days, from 1888 to around 1903, the Order of the Golden Dawn harbored one of the greatest repositories of magic knowledge in the Western world. Founded by William Wynn Westcott, a Rosicrucian, and Samuel Liddell MacGregor Mathers, an occultist, the Golden Dawn was a particularly fashionable secret society during Victorian times. The group numbered among its members such luminaries as W. B. Yeats, Aleister Crowley, A. E. Waite, and Algernon Blackwood. Westcott claimed to have come into possession of an ancient manuscript of Hermetic knowledge that contained the mystical rituals of a secret society of magi. Mathers expanded the rituals to create the format of the Golden Dawn.

Samuel Liddell MacGregor Mathers performs a ritual for the Order of the Golden Dawn, circa 1900.

When the Isis-Urania Temple of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn was formally established in 1888, its hierarchy was based on the Tree of Life as structured in the Kabbalah. Westcott, Mathers, and Dr. W. R. Woodman, supreme magus of the Rosicrucian Society of Anglia, were the three "Chiefs Second Order," who received direction from entities on the astral plane known as the "Secret Chiefs of the Third Order." The Golden Dawn taught three magical systems—the Key of Solomon, Abra-Melin, and Enochian. Students received instruction in astral projection, alchemy, astrology, tarot, automatic writing, and clairvoyance. Arcane information was also derived from the Egyptian Book of the Dead, the Chaldean Oracles, and the Prophetic Books of William Blake. Unlike most groups of its like at the time, the Golden Dawn was open to women. One of its best-known members, Pamela Colman Smith, created the iconic art in the Rider-Waite tarot deck.

Annie Horniman, sponsor of the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, was also a benefactor of the Golden Dawn. She withdrew her support in 1896 when Mathers claimed that the Secret Chiefs on the astral plane had initiated him into their ranks. Although Mathers spent considerable time translating the manuscript of *The Book of the Sacred Magic of Abra-Melin the Mage*, he would eventually be expelled from the society that he had cofounded. In 1897 doubts also arose over certain of Westcott's questionable activities in founding the order (he also once left top-secret occult documents in a horse-drawn cab), and Florence Farr, the mistress of the playwright George Bernard Shaw, assumed as a Chief of the Second Order.

In 1898 the notorious Aleister Crowley was initiated into the order and rose rapidly through the degrees. Crowley is one of the most controversial figures in the annals of modern occultism. He believed that most of humankind's ills are caused by inhibition of the sexual impulses; therefore, much of his Magick (Crowley added the terminal "k" to differentiate the true science of the Magi from stage magic) drew its impetus from the release of psychic energy through sexual activity. Crowley became known as a drug fiend, an author of vile books, and the spreader of obscene practices. Crowley's own mother, a fundamentalist Christian, dubbed him the "Great Beast 666," a diabolical image drawn from the book of Revelation. Before Crowley's death in 1947, he had a reputation as the "wickedest man in the world."

The stresses between Crowley and Mathers soon increased to the point where they allegedly engaged in magickal warfare, sending demons and vampires to attack each other. Such disruptions on the astral plane led to the expulsion of both men from the society.

W. B. Yeats attempted to restore discipline among the ranks of the Golden Dawn and assumed control of the Second Order. His efforts were to no avail. In 1903 A. E. Waite founded a society that retained the Golden Dawn name but emphasized the study of mysticism rather than the practice of magic. In 1905 the Stella Matutina, the Order of the Companions of the Rising Light in the Morning, splintered off from the Isis-Urania Temple. This group survived until the 1940s as the Merlin Temple of the Stella Matutina. Few organized groups of the Golden Dawn exist today. Perhaps one reason for its decline is the publication of its secret rituals by Israel Regardie.

At the time of his death on March 10, 1985, Dr. Francis Israel Regardie was regarded by many occultists as the last living adept of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. In such works as *A Garden of Pomegranates* and *The Tree of Life* (both 1932), Regardie had demystified a great deal of the esoteric aura surrounding the occult and presented understandable and readable texts on practical magic.

Born in 1907, Regardie had absorbed the Theosophy of Madame Blavatsky, Hindu philosophy, and the Kabbalah by the time he was thirteen. By nineteen he had become a Rosicrucian and had begun to correspond with Aleister Crowley, who at that time was living in Paris. In 1928 the twenty-one-year-old occultist accepted the position of Crowley's personal secretary, hoping that the famous magician would tutor him in the mystic arts. When Crowley's sensational exploits got him in trouble with the French authorities, he was forced to leave the country and return to England. About that same time, Crowley's publisher declared bankruptcy, and he could no longer afford Regardie's services as a secretary.

Although the Golden Dawn had ceased to exist as a functioning magical society as early as 1903, it continued to exist in various descendant orders, such as the Stella Matutina and the Alpha et Omega. In 1932 Regardie's distillation of the teachings of the Golden Dawn was published in *The Tree of Life*, and at once he was embroiled in controversy. While some demanded he never again dare to mention the name of the society, others, such as Dion Fortune, defended him and invited him to join the Order of Stella Matutina. In 1934, after having attained a high rank in the order, Regardie left it, and in 1937 he published the essence of their teachings and rituals in a four-volume set titled *The Golden Dawn*. Regardie believed that the heritage of magic was the spiritual birthright of every man and woman and that the principles of such magical systems as the Golden Dawn should be made available to all who wished to pursue the ancient wisdom teachings.

Regardie believed that the heritage of magic was the spiritual birthright of every man and woman....

Regardie's *The Philosopher's Stone* (1937) was written from the perspective of Jungian symbolism. In 1937 Regardie began seriously to study psychology and psychotherapy, encompassing the theories of Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, and Wilhelm Reich. In *The Middle Pillar* (1938), he compared the techniques and exercises of ceremonial magic to the methods of psychoanalysis. In 1941 he took up practice as a lay analyst, and in 1947 he relocated to California, where for many years he taught psychiatry at the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic and continued to write, producing numerous books. Regardie retired from practice in 1981 and moved to Sedona, Arizona, where he continued to write until his death of a heart attack on March 10, 1985.

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ORDER OF THE SOLAR TEMPLE

These claimants to the new Order of Knights Templar became impatient when the underground masters failed to arrive on schedule.

On October 4, 1994, when authorities from Cheiry, Switzerland, investigated a fire in a farmhouse on the edge of town that was occupied by members of the Order of the Solar Temple, they discovered a secret room in which twenty-two corpses, many of them wearing ceremonial capes, were found. Some of the cultists had plastic bags over their heads; others had been shot.

On October 5, three houses burning side by side in the village of Granges-sur-Salvan, Switzerland, yielded the bodies of twenty-five more members of the Order of the Solar Temple. Later it was learned that the six charred bodies found in Morin Heights, Quebec, on October 4 were also connected to the order. In December 1995 sixteen more members of the cult were found dead in France, and in March 1997 five more killed themselves in Quebec. Joseph Di Mambro and Luc Jouret, the leaders of the cult, whose corpses were among those at Granges-sur-Salvan, had made their transition to another world along with at least seventy-four of their followers.

Di Mambro and Jouret had founded the Order of the Solar Temple in 1984, claiming a spiritual heritage from the Order of the Knights Templar, which had supposedly been dissolved in the fourteenth century. Among their declared goals were to help Earth to prepare for the return of Christ in solar glory and to assist humankind through a time of transition as spirituality would begin to assume primacy over materiality.

Di Mambro had a fascination with the occult from childhood. In 1956 he joined the Ancient and Mystic Order of the Rosy Cross, a group which claims to be one with the Rosicrucian Order established in the sixteenth century. In 1976 he became a self-appointed spiritual master, and by 1978 he had established the Golden Way Foundation in Geneva.

Many cult members had been told by Jouret that they were Light Beings who had reincarnated on Earth with a special mission to fulfill….

In 1981 Jouret, a young physician and former grand master of the Renewed Order of the Temple, another group that combined concepts of the Knights Templar and the Rosicrucians, left that order over a dispute regarding certain policy matters. He met Di Mambro the next year and the two founded the Order of the Solar Temple in 1984.

Jouret's credentials as a physician and his dynamic platform personality drew large crowds to his lectures. From 1984 to about 1990 he claimed to relay the teachings of the masters of the Rosicrucian Order of the sixteenth century, who remained alive and hidden in a secret underground retreat near Zurich. These esoteric pronouncements, together with spiritual phenomena produced during various public demonstrations, convinced many new members that the time of the Apocalypse was drawing near and the best way to survive the growing negativity of society was in the safety of the Order of the Solar Temple.

By 1989 the cult had gathered about five hundred members, most of them in Switzerland, France, and Canada. However, by 1992 Jouret and Di Mambro had made too many unfulfilled predictions and promises, and some of their followers began to doubt the existence of the great masters hidden underground. Many cult members had been told by Jouret that they were Light Beings who had reincarnated on Earth with a special mission to fulfill, but too much time had passed, and the promised New Age of Consciousness had still not arrived. Even Di Mambro's son Elie declared that he doubted the existence of the masters who were allegedly guiding his father and Jouret, and he went so far as to expose some of the illusions his father used to create the spirit phenomena during the demonstrations. Since Elie had been promoted as a very special chosen one who had been born to bring about a new world order, his dissension caused a serious breach in the cult.

When the mass suicide occurred in 1994, membership had already begun to decline. With the structure of the Order of the Solar Temple crumbling around them, Di Mambro and Jouret prepared for their transition to another world. From October 1994 to March 1997, seventy-four of the most faithful to the order's teachings made their own transitions.

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PATRIOT ACT AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Skeptics say the Patriot Act is another ploy of the New World Order to steal freedom.

Signed by President George W. Bush just six weeks after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the Patriot Act boosted the range of FBI surveillance parameters and expanded the powers of law-enforcement officers, including the right to hold anyone even suspected of terrorist activities incommunicado for months. Critics of the Patriot Act have called for a tempering of provisions in the law that permit law-enforcement officers to conduct secret searches of private citizens' homes and businesses. While the FBI's greatly broadened wiretapping authority may help to catch terrorists, such capabilities should not trample on the rights of private citizens.

Conspiracy theorists are emphatic when they declare that there is nothing patriotic at all about the Patriot Act. In their view, the act is simply another ploy of the New World Order to take away our freedoms and substitute a police state in their place when secret government agents predict cataclysmic terrorist attacks.

Among the claims most often voiced by critics of the Patriot Act are the following:

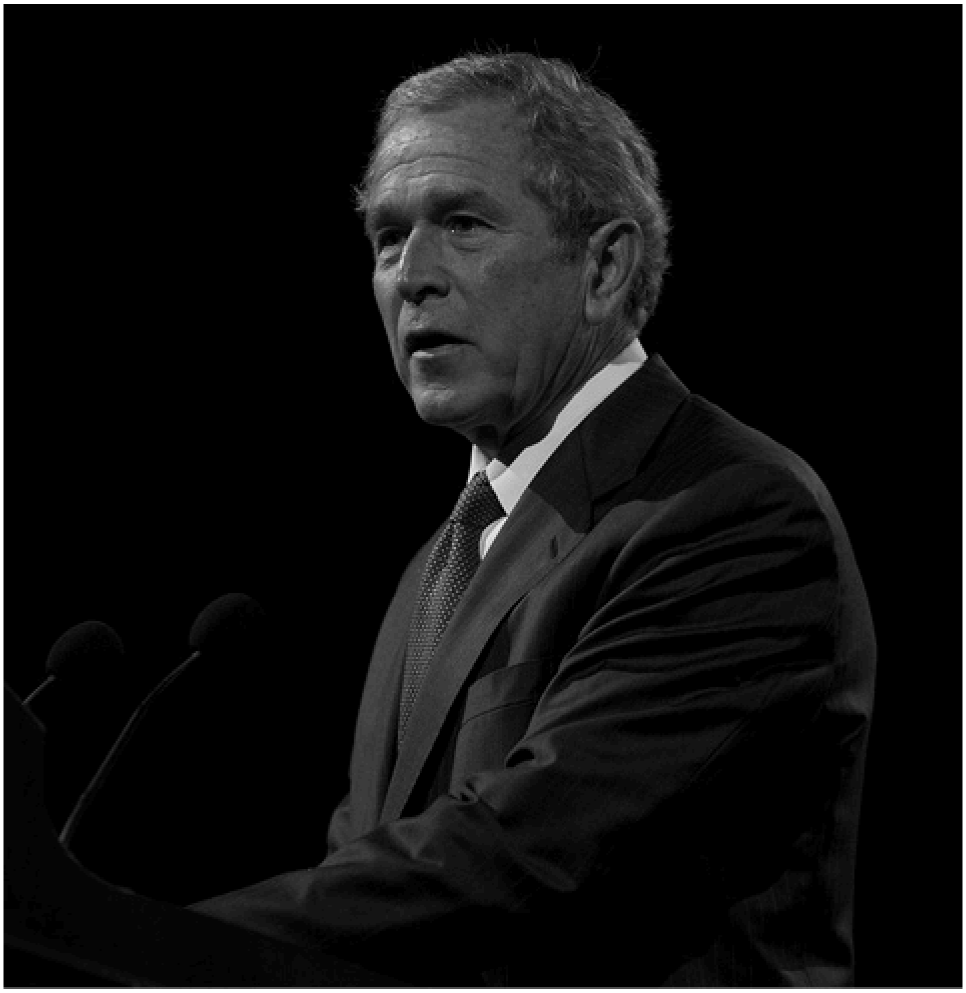
- The act includes language that would impose lifetime incarceration or death upon anyone engaged in any form or degree of crime, sedition, or simply dissent.
- Congress was hoodwinked into endorsing the legislation. The Patriot Act was printed overnight and then immediately presented to Congress to vote on with almost no time for congressional discussion and no public discussion. The act was presented for vote as the patriotic thing to do in the newly declared war on terrorism.

- The Environmental Protection Agency will no longer release the information it gathers when chemical plants dump toxic substances.
- The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has refused to release secret documents that it prepared regarding the dangers of liquefied natural gas terminals under construction along America's coastlines. The commission claims the material is critical energy infrastructure information.
- Despite bitter complaints from the nation's mayors, the Homeland Security Department won't tell police and fire departments when dangerous shipments of hazardous materials move through their jurisdictions.
- The Justice Department has been withholding details of secret proceedings against immigrants since 9/11.
- A study by the Rand Corporation of the thirty-six Web sites and more than six hundred public databases shut down after 9/11 concluded that government efforts to censor information was ill advised and ineffective. Terrorists could easily obtain the information elsewhere, in textbooks, trade journals, or through nongovernment sites.
- The Department of Homeland Security issued regulations informing government agencies that they are no longer required to release environmental impact statements. New secrecy rules are being applied not only to documents the government gathers, but also to information the government finances.
- The Council on Government Relations, which represents the nation's university system, protests that scientists are facing unprecedented new rules written into research contracts requiring them to suppress sensitive but unclassified materials and also to apply for special approval if foreigners are involved in the government-financed research.
- Several administrations have now used the Patriot Act as an excuse for sweeping and likely unconstitutional monitoring of electronic and voice communications.

In May 2011, the Department of Homeland Security called for contractors to construct and operate National Responder Support Camps. Conspiracists sounded a new alarm in December 2011 when it appeared that the Halliburton subsidiary KBR was scouting for subcontractors to build additional FEMA camps. The oft-repeated concerns that the camps were really meant to be detention centers for members of accused terrorists and civilian protest groups who could be detained indefinitely was nearing an unconstitutional reality.

In 1979, when President Jimmy Carter combined various government assistance agencies into the Federal Emergency Management Agency, its stated purpose was to "reduce the loss of life and property and to protect the Nation from all hazards, including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters." As early as the Reagan administration, however, whistleblowers insisted that FEMA's true reason for being was to assist in the establishment of martial law and the detainment of American citizens who were involved in acts of civil disobedience.

Conspiracists are increasingly alarmed by the lengths Homeland Security is going to in order to monitor and criminalize American citizens under the guise of protecting the nation. Rather than guarding from outside attacks and homegrown terrorists, conspiracy researchers argue, Homeland Security is rapidly amassing the means to convert the republic into a police state under ceaseless observation by high-tech spies.



The Patriot Act, a reaction to the 9-11 terrorist attacks, was signed into law by President George W. Bush and went into effect on October 26, 2001.

The FBI gathers massive amounts of personal data via an extensive biometric program called the Next Generation Identification (NGI) system. This spying technology utilizes various high-tech scanning devices to collect fingerprints, palm prints, iris scans, and such personal identification marks as scars, facial characteristics, tattoos, and voice recognition. These millions of pieces of individual data are not collected from known criminals and suspected radical extremists in their meeting places, but rather from ordinary citizens.

Such personal information fed into the computer systems of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) can track anyone anywhere and record any and all activities. Once this data is combined with information gathered by the Future Attribute Screening Technology (FAST) an itemized dossier of anyone's social habits, recreational activities, daily schedules, and meetings with friends and associates can be analyzed. And all this personal information gathering can be accumulated without the individual's knowledge—or even more importantly, his consent. Once gathered, all such data can be stored in a centralized NGI database.

The FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division (CJIS) has already collected a database of over a million palm prints collected from both crime scenes and a wide variety of locations where palm prints can be recovered. Such future collection projects as iris scanning are also being developed for quick identification of individuals under suspicion for any type of antisocial behavior.

With the implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act in 2001 by the George W. Bush administration, many K-12 schools began using fingerprint and biometric systems during lunch to insure reimbursement for the federal program.

In 2007, some police departments began using laptop computers to record children's fingerprints at such public events as county fairs. The data was then uploaded to the federal Amber Alert system.

In 2010, the Los Angeles Unified School District informed students that they must submit to a biometric identification system in order to receive lunch.

A school district in Philadelphia found itself facing a class action lawsuit when it was discovered that the 1,800 laptop computers issued to students in two high schools contained concealed cameras that enabled school personnel to monitor the students without the knowledge or consent of either the students or their parents.

In late 2010, it was learned that the U.S. Department of Agriculture had installed surveillance cameras in numerous school cafeterias so government officials could monitor students as they ate.

In 2011, a county in Florida installed fingerprint scanners in school buses as an effective method of monitoring students. School officials are also planning a scanner and laptop installed in every bus in their district.

John W. Whitehead, an attorney specializing in constitutional rights and civil liberties and author of *The Change Manifesto* (2008), stated the following warning in regard to such abuses of privacy as those cited above: "As surveillance cameras, metal detectors, police patrols, zero tolerance policies, lock downs, drug-sniffing dogs and strip searches become the norm in elementary, middle, and high schools across the nation, America is on a fast track to raising up an Orwellian generation—one populated by compliant citizens accustomed to living in a police state and who march in lock step to the dictates of the government."

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GEORGE PATTON AND OPERATION UNTHINKABLE

When flamboyant American general George S. Patton died in a car accident just after the end of World War II, it struck many as suspicious timing.

In 1945, U.S. Army general George S. Patton was one of the most celebrated heroes of the war he had just helped win. Starting the previous year, his Third Army had systematically defeated the once vaunted Nazi Wehrmacht in battle after battle. The Germans finally surrendered in May 1945. But that December 9, Patton's driver crashed into a truck. After leading his men through some of history's most dramatic battles with a fervency that balanced recklessness with strategic genius, the daring general died of his injuries 12 days later.

Some people, though, do not take this story at face value. Some conspiracy researchers have noted just how odd it is that Patton could survive a world war and then die in a car accident. They also pointed to Patton's fervent anticommunism and hatred of the Soviet Union, about whom he said, "I have no particular desire to understand them except to ascertain how much lead or iron it takes to kill them." Patton wanted to take more of Europe for the Allies before the Soviets could place it behind the Iron Curtain. He also believed that the Allies and Soviets would go to war anyway and that it made sense to take them on sooner rather than later. "Mark my words," he said. "Someday we will have to fight them and it will take six years and cost us six million lives."

Patton was not the only one who thought this. With the support of Winston Churchill, Allied leaders drew up a plan they called Operation Unthinkable, which laid out the plan for an invasion that would sweep through Soviet-occupied Eastern Europe before charging into the USSR itself. While it is not clear if the Soviets knew of this plan, they feared its potential regardless, and their intelligence apparatus picked up a secret telegram from Churchill that ordered Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery to keep German armaments ready to hand back in case the remaining Wehrmacht units needed to be included in the Allied offensive. Another plan, supposedly drawn up by U.S. commander Dwight Eisenhower and approved by President Harry Truman, called for the use of atomic bombs as part of the attack.

Did General George S. Patton merely die in a car accident, or was he murdered in a nefarious plot to keep him from his ambitions of attacking the Soviets after World War II?

Given all that, it is not surprising that some put stock in the idea that Patton—the loudest and most vehement supporter of the idea of attacking the Soviets—was, in fact, assassinated on the orders of Soviet leader Josef Stalin. Believers in the so-called “poison plot” argue that while Patton was recovering from his accident, he was given a fatal dose of poison by Soviet agents, presaging the regime’s long record of killing opponents on foreign soil in this manner. A variant of this theory argues that the Soviets were working with the OSS, who had not only staged the car accident but also had Patton shot by a sniper at the crash site, causing them to resort to poison when the general survived those attempts.

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PEARL HARBOR AND FDR

When Franklin Delano Roosevelt called the Japanese attack on Pearl "a date which will live in infamy," conspiracists were quick to add "and deception."

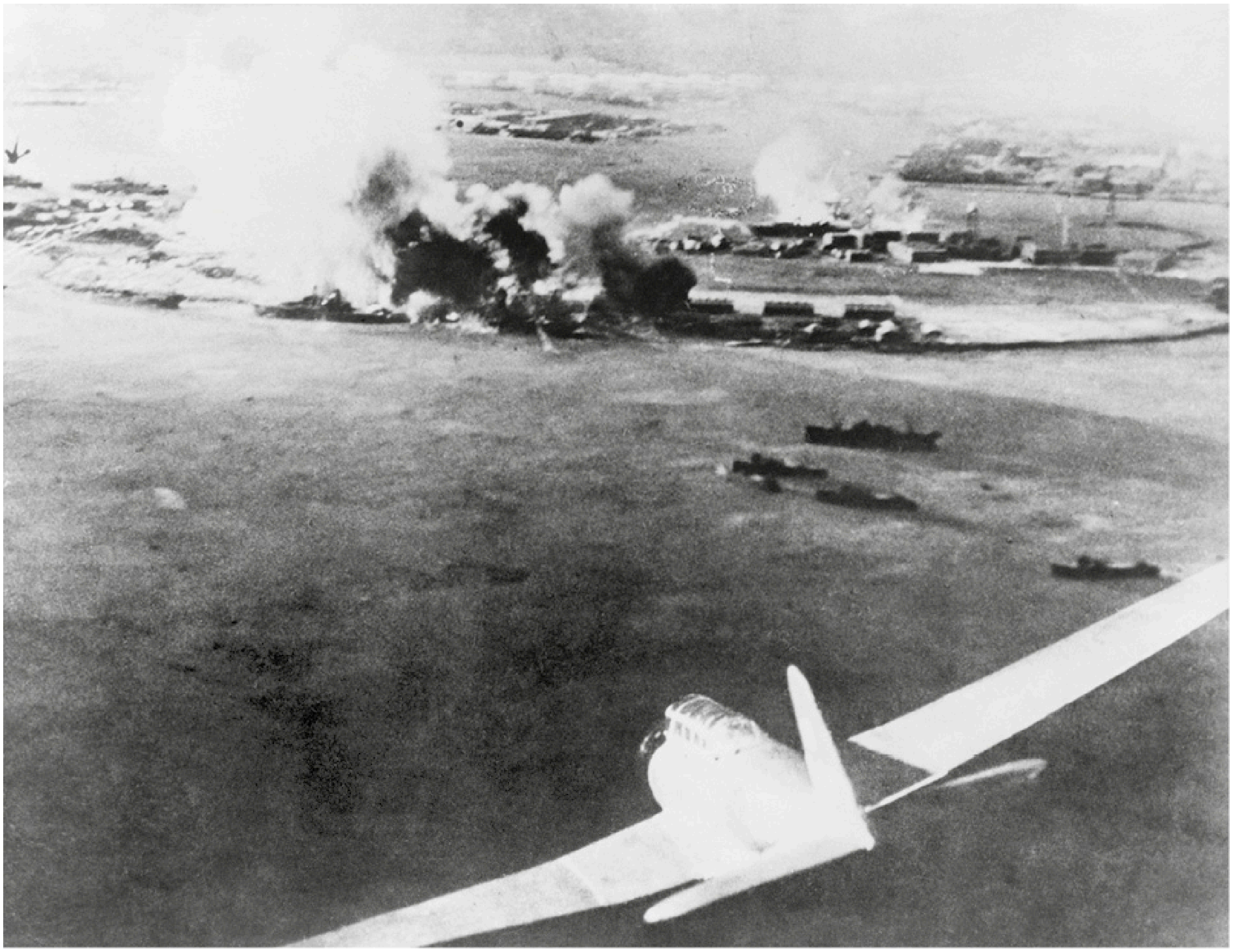
For decades, even the most conventionally patriotic individuals have at least wondered if the December 7, 1941 "sneak attack" by Japanese forces on the Pearl Harbor naval base, which cost the lives of over 2,400 Americans, was really such a surprise. Many have asked, "How much did FDR know?"

For these theorists, their suspicious belief that the Roosevelt administration knew more than it admitted to about the attack is supported by the following:

- Dealing with an isolationist nation, FDR tried to provoke war by ordering the U.S. Navy to fire upon Nazi warships in the Atlantic. The Germans did not return fire because of Hitler's strict orders to Admiral Erich Raeder not to engage the provocateurs.
- FDR then turned his attention toward the Japanese by initiating an embargo on war materials against Japan and threatening a blockade of Japanese shipping which threatened resupply of their campaigns in China, Korea, and Burma. To show that he meant business, FDR ordered the U.S. fleet from the West Coast to Hawaii in 1940.
- Pearl Harbor's resident commander, Admiral James O. Richardson, raised objections to the fleet move, stating that there was inadequate protection from air attack and no protection from torpedo attack. In 1932, in combined army-navy war games, 152 carrier-based aircraft caught the defenders of Pearl Harbor completely by surprise. In 1938 another carrier-borne air strike successfully "attacked" the Pacific base in an exercise. Admiral Richardson objected so strenuously to FDR's plan that he was replaced by Admiral Husband E. Kimmel, who raised the same objections almost immediately upon assuming command.
- By December 1940 the U.S. Army Signal Intelligence Service had broken all the major Japanese communication codes. It was revealed in 1979 by the National Security Agency that the code breakers working on JN-25 had intercepted 2,413 messages with details of the existence, objectives, and location of the Pearl Harbor Strike Force. In November and early December 1941, the code breakers worked twenty-four hours a day and spent 85 percent of their time reading Japanese navy and diplomatic messages.
- On March 32, 1941, a navy report predicted that if Japan should ever attack the United States, they would most likely strike Pearl Harbor at dawn without warning. The U.S. fleet was the only major threat to Japan's plans for world domination.
- In July 1941 a U.S. military attaché in Tokyo reported secret Japanese aerial training exercises in Ariake Bay, a bay closely resembling Pearl Harbor. That same month a U.S. military attaché in Mexico received information that the Japanese were building small submarines designed to attack the fleet in Pearl Harbor.

- War-hawk presidential advisers, such as Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, continued to counsel FDR that the best way to enter the war against Nazi Germany was to declare war on Japan, one of Germany's allies. On July 25, 1941, FDR froze all Japan's assets in the United States, cutting off their main supply of oil. At the Atlantic Conference in August, British prime minister Winston Churchill cabled his cabinet his astonishment at how eager Roosevelt appeared to be to enter the war.
- On August 10, 1941, a British double agent known as "Tricycle" gave the FBI exact details of the Japanese attack plans for Pearl Harbor. The FBI rejected this intelligence because it was too complete, too precise, and too detailed to be authentic.
- In September 1941 a Korean agent informed CBS journalist Eric Sevareid that the Japanese would attack Pearl Harbor before Christmas. This intelligence convinced U.S. senator Guy Gillette of its authenticity, and he personally alerted FDR, the State Department, and Army and Navy Intelligence.
- On September 24 a coded message between Japanese naval intelligence and Japan's consul general in Honolulu was intercepted in which the diplomatic was requested to deliver the grid of the precise locations of the U.S. ships in the harbor at Pearl. The content of this message was not relayed to Pearl Harbor. Captain Alan G. Kirk, chief of Naval Intelligence, argued that there was no reason why the Japanese navy would need to know the exact grid of the U.S. fleet unless they intended to try to sink it. Because he insisted on warning Hawaii, he was removed from his position, and the message was never relayed.
- On October 16 FDR humiliated Japan's ambassador Kichisaburo Nomura and refused to meet with Premier Prince Konoye. These moves helped allow the war-minded General Tojo to claim power in Japan.
- On November 13 the German ambassador to the United States, an anti-Nazi, told U.S. intelligence that the Japanese planned to bomb Pearl Harbor.
- On November 25 FDR confided in Secretary of War Henry Stimson that Pearl Harbor would soon be attacked and explained that the U.S. had to maneuver the Japanese into firing the first shot in order to have the full support of the American people. The president admonished his secretary of war that there must be no doubt in anyone's mind as to who were the aggressors and who started the war.

Before December 7 Ambassador Nomura was still conducting negotiations with Washington. Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commanding the Japanese attack forces as they secretly advanced into Hawaiian waters, cautioned his officers that if the negotiations in Washington should prove successful, the attack group would immediately stand down. If hostilities were declared, they would deal the U.S. fleet a mortal blow.



The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor gave the United States the excuse it needed to enter World War II. After declaring war on Japan, President Roosevelt also declared war on Germany and its allies just a few days later on December 11, 1941.

It is known that British intelligence decoded Yamamoto's orders to his officers. It is suspected that Churchill sent an urgent message to FDR informing him that an attack on Pearl Harbor was imminent. If the conspiracy theorists are correct in their assumptions, the part of Yamamoto's message that moved FDR to action were the words that the attack force would stand down if negotiations succeeded.

- On November 26 the U.S. aircraft carriers *Enterprise* and *Lexington* were ordered out of Pearl Harbor, thus removing from the island headquarters fifty fighter planes, or 40 percent of its already scant air power. That same day, U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull issued the ultimatum that Japan must withdraw all forces from Indochina and China, a demand certain to antagonize the Japanese and cause them to break off negotiations.
- On November 29 the FBI intercepted an uncoded message from Japan's new special ambassador in Washington, Saburo Kurusu, to the Chief Foreign Officer in Tokyo in which Kurusu stated that he needed to know the "zero hour" or he would not be able to carry on diplomatic exercises. The Tokyo officer responded, "December 8 at Pearl Harbor," which the FBI interpreted, allowing for the time difference, to be December 7.

- On December 1 Ambassador Nomura received a cable from Foreign Minister Shigenori Togo with instructions to continue negotiations in order that the U.S. not become suspicious of Japan's surprise attack.
- On December 2 Yamamoto radioed the attack fleet in uncoded Japanese: "Climb Niitakayama 1208." Niitaka was the highest mountain in Japan. U.S. intelligence could easily deduce that Yamamoto's message called for the attack to begin on December 8 (December 7, U.S.)

The strongest evidence for the "FDR knew" conspiracy theory is … that before Pearl Harbor, a U.S. cryptology project known as Operation Magic had already broken Japanese codes.

- On December 4 Elliott R. Thorpe, a U.S. military attaché; stationed in Java and privy to all the messages decoded by Dutch intelligence that specified a Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, sent four cables warning of the danger. The War Department in Washington ordered Thorpe to cease.
- On December 5 all Japanese shipping returned to home ports.
- On December 6, at 9:30 P.M., FDR was given the first thirteen parts of a decoded Japanese diplomatic declaration of war. After glancing through it, FDR returned to his dinner guests and announced that the war would start on the next day.
- On December 7, at 7:55 A.M. local time, the Japanese launched a "surprise" attack on Pearl Harbor. Eighteen U.S. ships were sunk or seriously damaged, including five battleships. Of the aircraft left to defend Pearl Harbor, 188 were destroyed and 162 were damaged, most before they even managed to get into the sky. Human casualties included 2,403 dead and 1,178 wounded. Out of an attack force of thirty-one ships and 353 bombers and fighter planes, the Japanese lost twenty-nine airplanes and five midget submarines, with a total of sixty-four deaths.

Though there was anger in the U.S. about the Navy being caught so unawares by the Japanese fleet, relatively few people initially believed that the government had known about the attack beforehand. Some conspiracy theorists—many of whom were long-time FDR antagonists like "America First" isolationist journalist John T. Flynn, who believed that a cabal of bankers had led the U.S. into World War I, that the New Deal was creeping communism, and that the Democrats were egging on the Japanese and Germans to start another war—began pushing their ideas a few years later, once it looked as though the U.S. was likely to win the war. A band of revisionist historians and journalists (especially at the *Chicago Tribune*, a bastion of isolationist thinking and New Deal skepticism) began publishing their narrative towards the end of the war and into the 1950s. Historian Charles Beard claimed that FDR had baited Japan into starting the war. Charles Tansill's *Back Door to War* (1953) charged FDR with deliberately keeping intelligence from the military so that they would be blindsided in an attack his administration knew was coming.

The strongest evidence for the "FDR knew" conspiracy theory is that, in addition to his belief that war with the Axis powers was inevitable, there was also the fact that before Pearl Harbor, a U.S. cryptology project known as Operation Magic had already broken Japanese codes. Some have argued that the U.S. knew an attack was imminent but seemed more likely to happen in the Philippines rather than Hawaii. Even though the Japanese fleet targeting Pearl Harbor was under radio silence, it remains difficult for many to believe that there was no advance warning of the attack that would plunge America into World War II.

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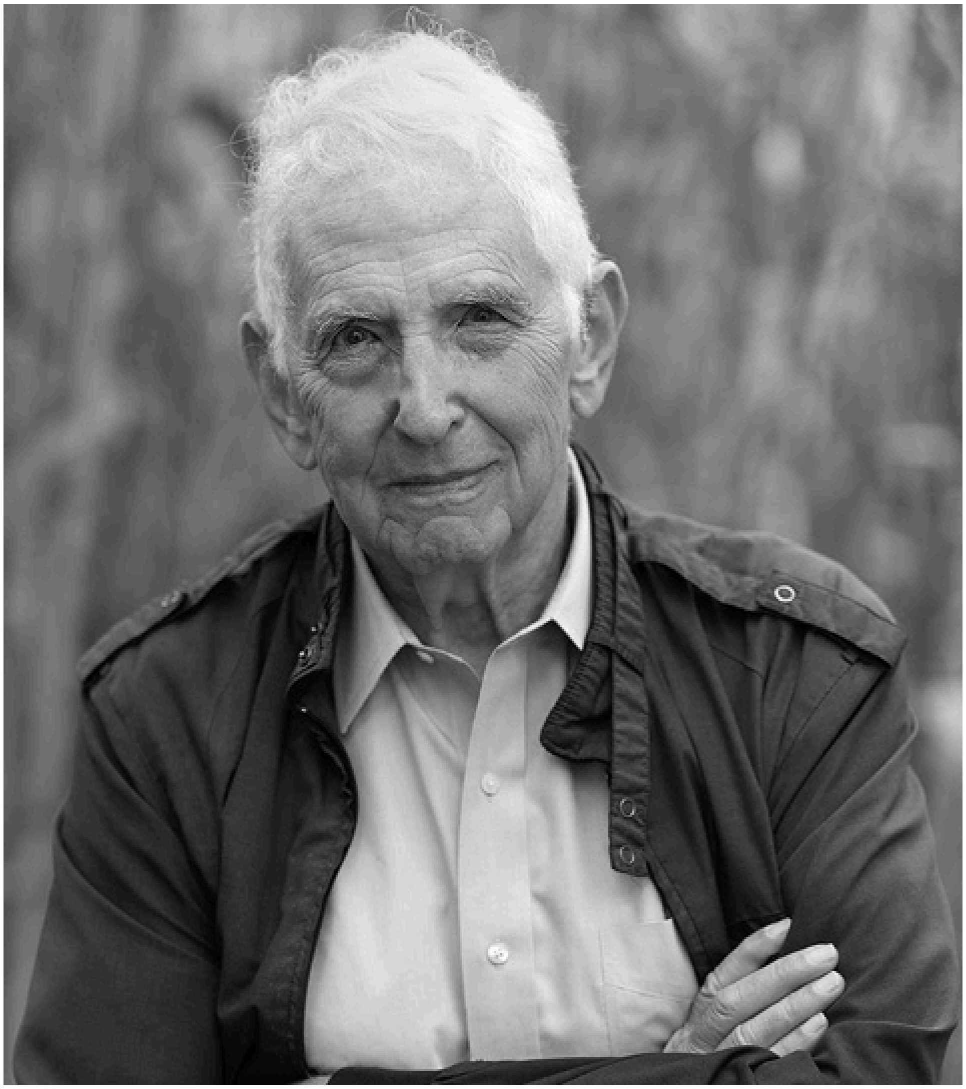
PENTAGON PAPERS

The Pentagon Papers, revealing the litany of lies issued to the American people about the Vietnam War, probably did more than any single factor in modern history to create distrust in the government.

On June 13, 1971, President Richard M. Nixon opened up his Sunday *New York Times* to see a picture of his daughter Tricia and himself from her wedding in the White House Rose Garden. Next to the photograph, on the right, was the headline over Neil Sheehan's initial story on the Pentagon Papers, "Vietnam Archive: Pentagon Study Traces 3 Decades of Growing U.S. Involvement." Nixon would maintain that he never read the article, but he told Secretary of State Henry Kissinger later that day that certain people had to be "put to the torch" and jailed for leaking such information to the press.

The Pentagon Papers constitute a massive seven-thousand-page, above-top-secret Defense Department history of America's involvement in the Vietnam War from 1945 to 1971. This historic document, leaked to the press by Defense Department staff member Daniel Ellsberg, disclosed that the government fully intended to go to Vietnam in spite of President Lyndon B. Johnson's promises to stay out of the mess that the French had left in that country. In addition, the papers revealed that there was no plan to end the war.



Pictured here in a 2020 photo, economist, activist, and former RAND Corporation employee Daniel Ellsberg caused a huge political uproar when he released the Pentagon Papers in 1971, detailing years of American involvement in Vietnam.

On June 14 White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman told President Nixon that out of the "gobbledygook, comes a very clear thing: you can't trust the government; you can't believe what they say; and you can't rely on their judgment. [A]nd the implicit infallibility of presidents, which has been an accepted thing in America, is badly hurt by this." That summed up the impact of the Pentagon Papers as succinctly as anyone could. Had the government ever told its citizens the truth about anything? Suddenly every conspiracy theory from Roosevelt allowing the attack on Pearl Harbor to the government cover-up of UFOs was given new validity. If even the White House chief of staff admitted that "you can't trust the government," why should anyone?

The *New York Times* began publishing excerpts of the Pentagon Papers on June 13. On the evening of June 14 Attorney General John Mitchell warned the *Times* by telephone and telegram against any further publication. On June 15 the U.S. government won a restraining order against the *Times*. The *Washington Post* picked up the gauntlet and the cause on June 18 and began publishing excerpts from the Pentagon Papers. That same day, Assistant Attorney General William Rehnquist advised the *Post* to stop publishing the Papers. The *Post* refused, and the Justice Department sought an injunction against the newspaper. This time the court refused the government's request, and the Justice Department appealed. At the same time, the *New York Times* was appealing the injunction against them.

On June 26 the Supreme Court of the United States agreed to combine the cases into *New York Times Co. v. U.S.* (403 US 713). On June 29 Senator Mike Gravel of Alaska entered 4,100 pages of the Pentagon Papers into the record of his subcommittee on Buildings and Grounds. This portion of the original 7,000 pages was later published in book form by Beacon Press of Boston.

On June 30 the Supreme Court made what is arguably the most important decision in U.S. history regarding freedom of the press. By a 6-3 vote, the Court ordered the prior restraints against the newspapers lifted, stating that the government had not met the burden of proof. The justices wrote nine separate opinions, sharply disagreeing on substantive issues. While the decision was an undeniable victory for the First Amendment, these disagreements made some journalists uncertain what protection there would be for future editors and publishers when issues of national security were alleged to be at stake.

The publication of the Pentagon Papers strengthened the protests against the war in Vietnam and greatly widened the credibility gap between the American public and the U.S. government.

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PEOPLES TEMPLE

What began in Indiana as a bold experiment in radical theology ended tragically in the jungle of Guyana.

In the early 1970s the Peoples Temple was accused of being a doomsday cult. Its flamboyant minister, Jim Jones, readily admitted that he thought that the Apocalypse and Armageddon were just around the corner and that the world had definitely entered the End-Times. Jones fulminated from his pulpit that the end of the world was drawing near and that civilization would soon be destroyed in a nuclear holocaust. At the same time, his healing services at the Peoples Temple in San Francisco were attracting both true believers and curiosity seekers, and Jones's particular brand of theology seemed attractive to many individuals drawn to alternative religious expression.

Born into a poor Indiana family at the height of the Great Depression in 1931, James Warren Jones was deeply influenced by his mother's belief in spirits and by her distrust of organized religion. At the same time, a Pentecostal neighbor lady showed the boy how religion could also be an intensely emotional experience. At an early age Jones developed a repugnance of racism, and he set as his mission the creation of a social activism that would tear down all racial barriers.

Jones held degrees from Indiana University and Butler University, but he had received no formal training in theology when he was invited to speak at the Laurel Street Tabernacle, an Assemblies of God Pentecostal church, in Indianapolis in September 1954. As a result of his powerful sermon on racial equality, many members left the congregation to follow Jones and to form a new church, the Wings of Deliverance, which was renamed the Peoples Temple. In 1960 the Peoples Temple was officially made a congregation of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, a liberal Protestant denomination, and Jones was ordained a minister. Within a very short time, Jones's social gospel of equality and love attracted over nine hundred members, and he added healing services to his ministry.

In 1965, because of threats directed against the Peoples Temple by those disturbed by Jones's radical theology and his alleged ability to cure serious diseases, the Temple moved to Ukiah, California, where Jones believed racial equality could be preached with greater openness and less fear of retaliation. Seventy families, roughly half black and half white, moved with him. In the 1970s, Peoples Temple opened churches in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Even as they amassed money and political power, the well-connected group grew larger and more fractious, with Jones' increasingly paranoid tendencies leading to charges of cult-like behavior.

In 1977, in a poorly disguised attempt to escape the numerous brewing scandals, Jones moved his community to the South American nation of Guyana, where in 1974 he had acquired a lease from the Guyanese government for four thousand acres of land to be used for colonization. The new community was called the Peoples Temple Agricultural Project, and eventually over nine hundred men, women, and children followed their charismatic leader to what became known as Jonestown.

Isolated in the jungle, Jonestown was not an idyllic community. Members were required to work eleven hours a day, six days a week, and eight hours on Sunday, clearing land for agriculture, planting crops, and building dormitories and other necessary buildings. Their diet consisted primarily of rice and beans, and their evenings were filled with required meetings before they were allowed to rest.

While his followers slaved in the steaming jungle to build a viable community, Jones, whose paranoia and delusions were fueled by his drug intake, said that he had started to receive messages from extraterrestrials who described a process called "Translation." During the implementation of the Translation, Jones and his followers would all die together and the aliens would take their spirits to another planet to enjoy a life of bliss. To prepare for this event, Jones ordered rehearsals of a mass suicide, during which followers would pretend to drink poison and fall to the ground. Those followers who began to suggest that their once unselfish leader was suffering from mental illness or megalomania were shouted down by the true believers.

The Rev. Jim Jones led his People's Temple from 1955 to 1978, when he killed himself and over 900 followers in Jonestown, Guyana, in a mass suicide.

On November 14, 1978, California congressman Leo Ryan and several journalists visited Jonestown to investigate claims of civil rights violations that had reached concerned relatives. Sixteen members of the Temple told Ryan that they wished to return with him, and Jones became extremely upset by so many defectors wanting to leave.

On November 18 a Temple member made an attempt on Ryan's life, and the congressman and his party decided to leave Jonestown immediately. While they were boarding two planes on the jungle airstrip, some heavily armed Temple security guards began firing on the group. Ryan and four others were killed and eleven were wounded before the planes could get into the air.

Fearing U.S. government retaliation, Jones decreed that it was time to put Translation into effect. On November 18, 1978, some Temple members committed suicide by ingesting cyanide-laced Kool-Aid, and others injected poison directly into their veins. According to investigators, 638 adult members of the community died, together with 276 children. A few fled into the jungle and survived the mass suicide and attempts to shoot those who refused to drink the poison.

The Peoples Temple as a movement died along with the 914 members who perished in Jonestown. In 1989 their former headquarters building in San Francisco was destroyed by an earthquake. Conspiracy theorists, including an aide to Ryan (known as a strong critic of the CIA), argue that the tragic mass deaths at Jonestown eliminated evidence of a CIA mind-control experiment gone bad. Others suggest that Jones subjected his followers to mind-control experiments of his own and became a victim of the situation.

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PHILADELPHIA EXPERIMENT

The U.S. Navy has tried to keep secret a World War II-era experiment that successfully teleported an entire warship hundreds of miles away, with tragic results for some crew members.

During the Philadelphia Experiment in October 1943, military scientists apparently succeeded in causing a warship to become invisible,

The mystery of the Philadelphia Experiment began on January 13, 1956, when Morris K. Jessup, respected academic and author of *The Case for the UFO* (1955), received the first of a series of strange letters written by Carlos Miguel Allende.

In October 1943, according to Allende, scientists working for the U.S. Navy had accomplished the complete invisibility of the *Eldridge*, a destroyer-type ship, and all of its crew. But there were catastrophic side effects. Some of the crew burst into flames in spontaneous human combustion, and several others later lapsed into invisibility in front of their families—or, in one case, before the patrons of a crowded bar. Over half the officers and crew members had to be committed to psychiatric wards for the rest of their lives as a result of the fantastic experiment. For obvious reasons, this was later hushed up.

Some of the crew burst into flames in spontaneous human combustion, and several others later lapsed into invisibility in front of their families….

Allende implied that he himself witnessed the experiment from aboard the SS *Andrew Furnseth*. He also declared that the experimental ship had not only disappeared from its Philadelphia dock but reappeared only a very few minutes later at its other dock near Norfolk, Virginia. Then it again disappeared and returned to its Philadelphia dock.

Not long after, Jessup was invited to the Office of Naval Research in Washington. The astrophysicist was surprised when an officer handed him a paperback copy of his own book, *The Case for the UFO*. Jessup was informed that the book had been addressed to "Admiral N. Furth, Chief, Office of Naval Research." The manila envelope in which it had arrived was postmarked Seminole, Texas. A cheery "Happy Easter" had been written across the face of the envelope.

Someone had taken the time and effort to completely annotate Jessup's study of the UFO, and the book appeared to have been passed back and forth among at least three persons. Each individual wrote in a different color of ink. The annotators designated themselves as "Mr. A." (assumed to be Allende), "Mr. B.," and "Jemi." The three individuals refer to "LMs," who seem to be extraterrestrials either friendly or indifferent to earthlings, and to "SMs," a group of hostile aliens. Throughout the text, the three used terms such as *mothership*, *home-ship*, *dead-ship*, *Great Ark*, *great bombardment*, *great return*, *great war*, *little-men*, *force-fields*, *deep freezes*, *undersea building*, *measure markers*, *scout ships*, *gravity fields*, *sheets of diamond*, *cosmic rays*, *force cutters*, *undersea explorers*, *inlay work*, *clear-talk*, *telepathing*, and *vortices*. Such terms have encouraged UFO researchers to speculate that the mysterious Allende and his two friends were representatives of an extraterrestrial power that took root on Earth centuries ago and has long since established an advanced underground subculture.

Jessup was found dead in his station wagon in Dade County Park, Florida, on April 20, 1959. Police officers reconstructed the death as a suicide. A hose had been attached to the exhaust pipe of the station wagon and looped into the closed interior. Some associates mentioned despondency over an approaching divorce as the principal reason. Most of his colleagues, however, were shocked and surprised that Jessup would seek the ultimate escape of a closed car and carbon monoxide. And ever since Jessup's death there have been UFO researchers who have argued that the alleged suicide was the price the astrophysicist paid for getting too close to the truth about flying saucers.

There really was a destroyer named the *Eldridge*, and it remained on active duty until 1946. After it was removed from military service, it was mothballed until being transferred to the Greek navy.

Although there will probably always be those who swear that they or their kin participated in the remarkable secret navy experiment in invisibility and teleportation in 1943, no newspaper clippings, military memoranda, or any other proofs of the Philadelphia Experiment have ever been located. Many researchers maintain that some kind of secret experiment took place with a navy warship in 1943 and thereby became the origin of the Philadelphia Experiment. Most speculate that it was probably an experiment in attempting to make ships invisible to enemy submarines' sonar and that it very well could have involved high voltages of electricity—which might have burned and scorched seamen and even delivered a kind of shock that drove some of the crewmen insane.

Others insist that a government conspiracy is at work and that the secret experiment in 1943 ripped a hole in the space-time continuum, enabling alien intelligences to begin an invasion of the planet. Once the aliens began to explore the opening between worlds in 1947, secret government agencies cut a deal with the ETs to share technology in return for the natural resources of Earth—including some of its human inhabitants.

In 1980 the writer Robert A. Goerman managed to find the home and the surviving family of Carl M. Allen, alias Carlos Miguel Allende. Goerman's research convinced him that the Philadelphia Experiment was quite likely all a hoax, a fantasy molded by a former sailor who loved to read about UFOs and strange, unsolved mysteries so much that he created one that may never die.

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WILLIAM PIERCE

The white supremacist author of The Turner Diaries had serious plans for an organized, secret, violent campaign to institute racist rule in America.

William Pierce was revered in far-right, white-supremacy groups as the author of *The Turner Diaries*, a futuristic, apocalyptic novel about the Aryan resistance underground movement after the "Jew-Negro conspiracy" has overthrown the U.S. government. The novel's hero is Earl Turner, a white-supremacist guerrilla who sacrifices his life in a kamikaze mission where he flies a small plane with a nuclear bomb into the Pentagon.

Pierce worked his way up the far-right, white supremacist circles step by step. About 1963 he joined the John Birch Society but left as his views became more radical. In 1966 he associated with American Nazi Party leader George Lincoln Rockwell and became the editor of Rockwell's *National Socialist World* magazine. After Rockwell's assassination in 1967 Pierce became a principal leader of the National Socialist White People's Party, the successor to the American Nazi Party. Pierce left that group to join the National Youth Alliance that had been founded by Willis Carto in 1968. After three years Pierce and Carto began to feud about a number of issues, and the National Youth Alliance split into factions, with Pierce's branch emerging as the National Alliance. *The Turner Diaries* was written under the pseudonym "Andrew MacDonald" in 1978, just a few years after Pierce left his career in teaching and research at Oregon State University.

Neo-Nazi and political activist William Pierce, who penned The Turner Diaries, founded the white-supremacist National Alliance in 1974.

Pierce once said that while writing *The Turner Diaries* he envisioned putting all the people he saw as the enemies of white people like himself—feminists, civil rights activists, heads of media organizations, and anyone who agreed with them—up against a wall and shooting them. On one of his radio programs in 1975 he said that this was exactly what must be done before America could get its civilization back on track.

Pierce recognized the reaction Americans would have to young men dressed in Nazi uniforms, so he counseled his followers not to get involved with "that kind of circus" or to display any Nazi symbols. Nevertheless, there was never any question about his admiration for Hitler or his vision of a future United States modeled after the Third Reich. Nor was there any doubt in his followers' minds that he believed that Jews were responsible for just about any problem they could imagine.

Pierce hoped the National Alliance would help him build a foundation for a final victory over those whom he judged as enemies of white culture. But membership dwindled through the Reagan era, and the national office moved from the Washington, D.C. area to rural Mill Point, West Virginia.

Pierce died in 2002 at the age of sixty-eight, still declaring that the National Alliance was the only "serious, mature, radical right-wing organization in America."

The Turner Diaries remains Pierce's true legacy, having clearly inspired Timothy McVeigh to blow up the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. A 2016 report indicated that Pierce's book had been tied to as many as 200 murders in dozens of terror attacks and hate crimes from the 1980s to now.

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THE POPES

Is it possible that not one but two modern-day popes did not die of natural causes?

The history of the Vatican is filled with pomp, ceremony, and declarations of faith, but it is also a legacy of violence. At various times, especially during the Middle Ages, the question of who would sit in the papal throne was often decided in a bloody manner, whether through open battle between different factions or murder. While the papacy has been quieter in modern times, that does not mean that every succession has taken place without suspicion.

When John Paul I was elected pope on August 26, 1978, he was viewed as a modernizing force. Known as the "Smiling Pope" for his sunny disposition, he was also apparently looking into some of the long-simmering scandals at the Vatican Bank. So, when the 65-year-old pope was found dead after a mere 33 days, suspicions swirled over who was behind it. Those who don't put any stock in the Vatican's explanation that John Paul I, who had a history of health problems, died of a heart attack generally believed that he was killed by elements of organized crime (a storyline that was picked up by the fictional film *The Godfather Part III*). This conspiracy theory points a finger at the Mafia, who was running a stock fraud scheme with insiders at the Vatican Bank, who they then plotted with to kill the errant pope before he could blow their scheme. In his book *In God's Name* (1984), David Yallop advanced a similar plot but argued that the main forces behind the murder were not the Mafia but members of the secretive Masonic lodge known as Propaganda Due. Yallop wrote in an updated edition of the book that Pope John Paul I deserved to be "acknowledged as a modern martyr" and died trying to clean up the Church.

Pope John Paul I died only 33 days after being elected to the office. Might the pontiff's investigations into potential Church scandals have led to his untimely demise?

Incredibly, Pope John Paul I's brief tenure was followed by the papacy also marked by violence. Pope John Paul II was a Polish conservative who was not only the first non-Italian pontiff but an arch anticommunist who was seen as turning the Church back to traditional beliefs following the liberalizing reforms of the Second Vatican Council. On May 13, 1981, he was shot and wounded by a young Turkish man, Mehmet Ali Agca, in St. Peter's Square. Given Pope John Paul II's crucial role in the anticommunist Solidarity movement in Poland, many believed that he had been targeted by the Soviets. Years later, files held by the Stasi, the Cold War-era East German secret police, revealed that Agca had been working for the Bulgarian intelligence service, which itself was operating under orders from the KGB and coordinating with the Stasi.

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POSSE COMITATUS AND SOVEREIGN CITIZENS

Posse Comitatus believes that American law allows them to essentially ignore the federal government.

Posse comitatus means "power of the county." The original Posse Comitatus Act was passed by Congress in 1878. Its intention was to prevent federal troops from enforcing community laws or from acting as police officers, as sometimes happened during the Reconstruction era, and to return them to their role of defending the nation's borders.

In the 1970s retired U.S. Army colonel William Potter Gale formed a group of armed anti-tax and anti-federal-government survivalists who agreed with his political philosophy that all government power should be rooted at the county, rather than the federal, level. Posse Comitatus members resist paying taxes in part because of their belief that the federal government is controlled by Jews. Some members won't even apply for driver's licenses because to do so would be to submit to an illegal, subversive authority. The Posse soon attracted Klan members and other anti-Semites, including David Duke.

This intermittently active, loosely organized group of antigovernment agitators and avowed followers of Christian Identity received nationwide attention in 1983 when Posse member Gordon Kahl murdered two federal marshals who had come to arrest him for a parole violation in connection with a conviction for nonpayment of taxes. Kahl became a fugitive and was later killed in a shootout with Arkansas law-enforcement officers.

In October 1987 Gale and four associates from the California-based Committee of the States were convicted of threatening the lives of Internal Revenue Service agents and a Nevada state judge. Sentenced to federal prison in January 1988, Gale died later that year, aged seventy-one.

In 1991 an Identity minister and Posse leader based in Michigan, James Wickstrom, was convicted of scheming to distribute $100,000 in counterfeit bills to white supremacists at the 1988 Aryan World Congress. While he was doing time in prison, Wickstrom transferred his leadership position to Mark Thomas, an Identity preacher from Pennsylvania. Wickstrom was released from prison in 1994 but remained involved in the Posse movement.

WHAT THE POSSE COMITATUS BELIEVES

- Northern European whites are the true "Chosen People" referred to in the Bible.
- Jews are members of Satan's synagogue.
- African Americans and other people of color are subhuman "mud races."
- Abortion is capital murder, punishable by death.

- Taxes should not be paid to the Zionist Occupied Government that controls the United States.
- The present government should be replaced with an Identity-based theocracy.

Although the Posse movement ultimately fragmented, many of its ideas live on, sometimes with groups that have a more generally anti-government but less specifically white supremacist ideology. The so-called "sovereign citizens" movement builds on Posse beliefs about the false authority of the federal government and overlays it with very specific legal interpretations that often cite the gold standard and maritime law . According to sovereign citizens (whose adherents range from the Aryan Nation to the Moorish Nation, along with various self-proclaimed "Republics"), the post-Civil War government turned against the wishes of the founding fathers in a way that renders their power illegitimate.

In essence Posse Comitatus followers believe are not bound by any laws which they choose to ignore and can essentially set up their own miniature countries. Most frequently this leads to a refusal to pay taxes or follow traffic laws and often results in byzantine court filings and occasional outbreaks of violence, often directed against court or police officers.

In 1991 an Identity minister and Posse leader based in Michigan, James Wickstrom, was convicted of scheming to distribute $100,000 in counterfeit bills to white supremacists....

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PROJECT MONARCH

Much of Project Monarch remains classified. From the information that has leaked out, it is easy to see why these mind-control experiments were considered top secret.

Project Monarch was officially begun by the U.S. Army in the early 1960s. It is still classified as top secret for reasons of national security. Some researchers are quite certain that Monarch evolved from such MK-Ultra subprojects as Spellbinder, established to create "Manchurian Candidate" assassins, and Operation Often, which explored black magic and the occult.

Researcher Ron Patton theorizes that the name Monarch referred to the Monarch butterfly and "the feeling of light-headedness," as if one were "floating or fluttering like a butterfly," after undergoing the trauma induced by electroshock. One may also think of the common occult symbolism of the butterfly for the soul or the mind and an ancient belief that human souls become butterflies while they are between lives awaiting reincarnation.

Monarch also diverged greatly from traditional psychological conditioning exercises by including satanic rituals in order to enhance the trauma experienced by the subject.

Patton states that Monarch was essentially about programming the mind, modifying human behavior, and placing its subjects into a "marionette syndrome." A marionette is a puppet whose actions are determined by a puppeteer pulling its strings, hence the analogy concerning the psychologist and the programmed subject. Conventional psychologists might use the term "conditioned stimulus response sequences," but the Monarch experimenters called the process "Imperial conditioning."

Monarch also diverged greatly from traditional psychological conditioning exercises by including satanic rituals in order to enhance the trauma experienced by the subject. The programmer might choose to intensify the rituals by having the hypnotized or drugged subject "image" ancient archetypal symbols of mysticism and the occult, such as spiders, bats, snakes, masks, castles, mazes, demons, and monsters.

Monarch programming had six levels:

Alpha: General conditioning designed to improve memory retention, visual acuity, and physical strength. Exercises deliberately subdivided the subject's the personality and emphasized the left-brain/right-brain division.

Beta: Sexual programming that would eliminate all moral values and remove all inhibitions.

Delta: Deadly force programming for special agents and elite forces of the military. Subjects were conditioned to have no fear, and subliminal instructions were implanted for the agent to commit suicide if captured.

Theta: Psychic programming through various electronic mind-control systems, brain implants, and telemetry devices. The implants were used with highly advanced computers and satellite tracking systems.

Omega: Also known as "Code Green," this level involved self-destruct programming that caused the subject/agent to commit suicide if too much memory was retrieved by interrogation.

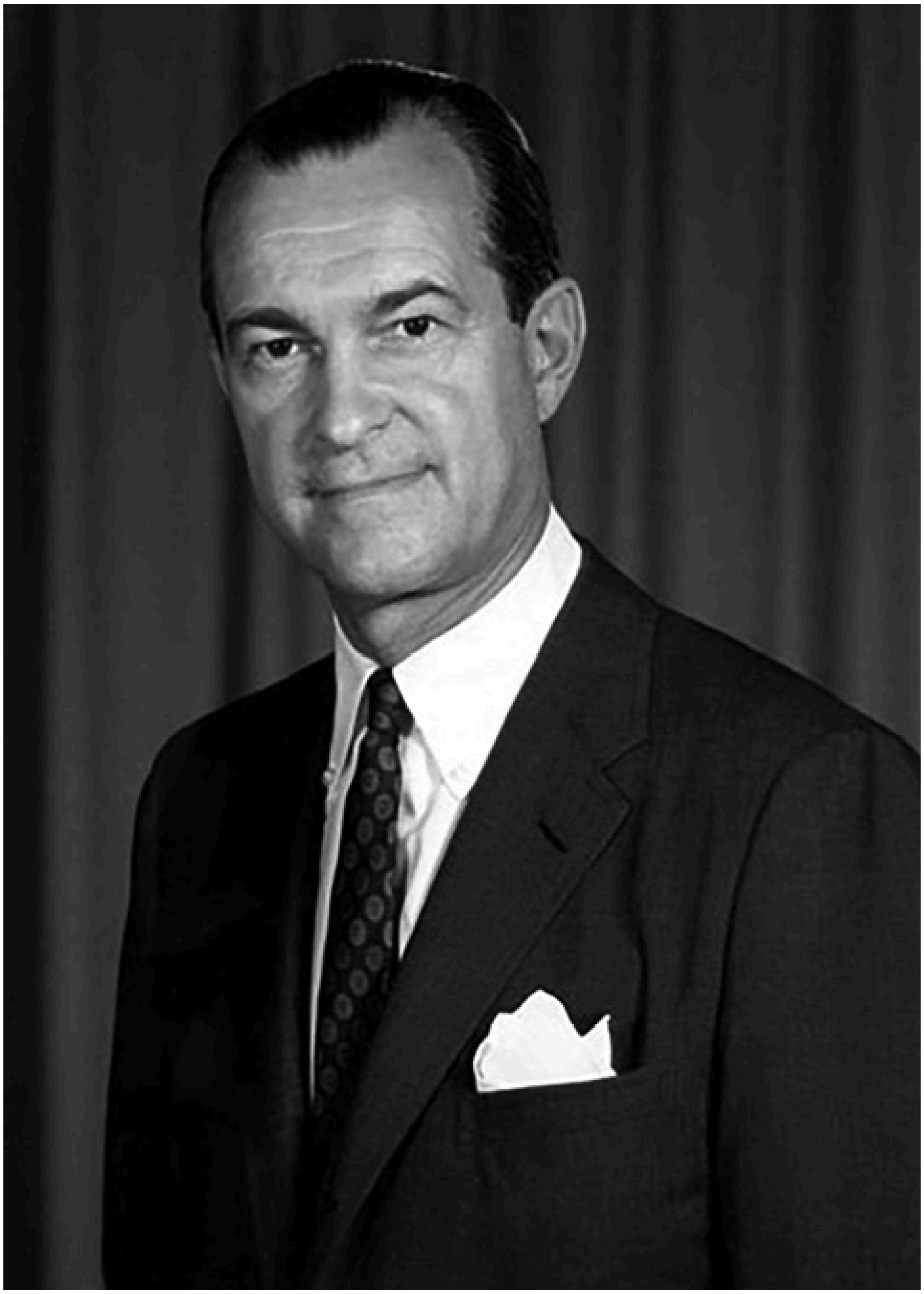
Gamma: This level activated itself within a subject/agent when an opportunity arose wherein misinformation and deception could be disseminated to great advantage.

Many researchers believe that the *MK* in MK-Ultra stood for "Mind Kontrolle," a German spelling of the English word "control." There were many Nazi psychologists who were masters of mind control and who were smuggled out of Germany at the end of World War II by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). Hitler's chief of intelligence against the Russians, General Reinhard Gehlen, arrived in Washington in 1945 and worked with OSS director William "Wild Bill" Donovan and Allen Dulles to restructure the American intelligence program into the Central Intelligence Agency under Dulles's leadership. General Gehlen shared the behavior-modification research of Dr. Josef Mengele at Auschwitz and the brainwashing experiments conducted at Dachau with hypnosis and mescaline.

There is an increasing amount of evidence that Mengele himself, under the assumed named of "Dr. Green," participated in the formulation of many Monarch and MK-Ultra programs in the United States after World War II. Mengele came to be called the "Angel of Death" when he conducted his infamous experiments on countless victims at Auschwitz concentration camp. While Mengele's presence could not be acknowledged by Monarch, his unprecedented research on thousands of unwilling victims provided valuable data on mental programming, mind control, and many other areas of great interest to MK-Ultra. Mengele had likely been brought to America together with a large number of Nazi scientists and medical personnel during Operation Paperclip.

Conspiracy researchers assert that the process of choosing the type of subjects to be used in the early Monarch experiments was reminiscent of the rationale of Dr. Mengele. Many hapless individuals for the Monarch experiments were selected because they came from orphanages, foster care homes, or incestuous families and were pronounced as "expendable," meaning that if any of them should die during the experiments, they would not be likely to be missed. "They are fulfilling their destiny as the chosen ones." This coldhearted dismissal of "accidents" that resulted from harsh experiments is said to have been coined by Mengele at Auschwitz, and it was repeated often by the Monarch personnel.

"Dr. Green" was known to work often with "Dr. White," the pseudonym of Dr. Donald Ewen Cameron, the former head of the Canadian, American, and World Psychiatric Associations. A personal friend of Allen Dulles, White/Cameron was given millions of dollars by MK-Ultra to conduct a series of mind-control experiments and to serve as a resource for Monarch and many of the other 150 subprojects of the secret program. Cameron's favorite experiment seems to have been what he called "psychic driving," in which subjects were kept in drug-induced comas for weeks, then administered electroshocks through electronic helmets strapped to their heads. Many of the subjects were abused children who had been passed on to him through the Roman Catholic orphanage system.



CIA director Richard Helms attempted to avoid legal and political embarrassment for the agency by having all the MK-Ultra records destroyed in 1972.

In 1972 Richard Helms, director of the CIA, ordered records of all 150 individual projects of MK-Ultra destroyed. On December 11, 1980, a lawsuit was filed against the CIA by a former "patient" who had experienced one of the experiments of Dr. Cameron. Once someone stepped forward to demand reparations for such cruel and harsh treatment, another former "volunteer" became a co-plaintiff. William Casey, the CIA director at this time, anticipated that more victims of the covert mind-control research projects would soon join in the court case, so he ordered the Agency's legal staff to delay court proceedings as long as possible. Casey's strategy was to wait out the plaintiffs, who were quite elderly, and to hope that if they died before the case came to trial, their stories would die with them. However, the case did eventually come to trial, and the plaintiffs settled for $100,000 each, released to them with the stipulation that they would never discuss the case or their complaints in public.

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PROJECT SILVERBUG

One day the Air Force seemed to take flying saucers seriously by announcing that they were building some of their own. Or was it all a grand plan of disinformation?

On February 16, 1953, the Canadian minister of defense production informed the Canadian House of Commons that Avro-Canada, a Canadian aircraft manufacturing company, was engaged in developing plans for a "flying saucer" that could fly at 1,500 miles an hour and take off and descend vertically. Avro projected that their proposed vehicle would make all other forms of supersonic aircraft obsolete.

On February 15, 1955, the Air Technical Intelligence Center, together with the Wright Air Development Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, revealed that the U.S. Air Force had proposed building jet-propelled "flying saucers" under the code name of Project Silverbug. Circular, saucer-shaped, like the classic UFOs that civilians had been sighting since at least 1947, the largest of the proposed saucers would weigh 26,000 pounds and be powered by radically advanced jet engines that could lift the craft to an altitude of over 36,000 feet in less than two minutes and sustain a cruising speed of Mach 3.48.

According to some, this project was declassified to inform both civilian and military intelligence on the matter of flying saucers and to jog FBI, CIA, and other intelligence units to increase their efforts to learn if the Soviet Union were working on similar aircraft. After all, the Soviets had also captured a number of the same caliber of German scientists who had been toiling for Hitler night and day toward the last days of World War II. These brilliant scientists and engineers had worked desperately to create circular craft with a newly perfected jet-engine propulsion system in order to reestablish the air superiority that they had once commanded. Prior to Germany's surrender, the Allied bombing campaign had rendered most of the Nazis' airbase runways unusable, but these circular craft needed no runways since they had VTOL (vertical-takeoff-and-landing) capabilities.

For some UFO researchers this rare disclosure from the Air Force seemed proof that the German occult Vril Society really had contacted extraterrestrials who gave the Nazis their technological advantage at the onset of World War II. Others spoke of the Nazi discovery of a downed UFO and the intense work of German scientists and engineers to reverse-engineer the alien spacecraft.

While the source for the technological know-how that allowed the U.S. Air Force to announce plans for such an astounding aerial vehicle will remain controversial, a June 1955 issue of *Look* magazine carried an article disclosing the information that Avro-Canada had been developing a saucer-shaped craft since 1953. According to the article, the Avro project had been abandoned because of the estimated $75 million development costs. Canadian John Frost began work on the Avro-Canada Y-2/Private Venture 704 project based on his having researched various Nazi saucer projects and had designed a "radial flow" jet engine.

There was great enthusiasm for saucer- or sphere-shaped aerial vehicles that could accomplish vertical takeoff and landing. As the Air Force's deputy director of research and development Brig. Gen. Benjamin Kelsey noted, contemporary aircraft "spend too much time gathering speed on the ground and not enough time flying in the air." VTOL aircraft would not require runways and landing strips, and they could easily be stored in underground, bombproof shelters, elevated to the surface when needed.

VTOL aircraft would not require runways and landing strips, and they could easily be stored in underground, bombproof shelters, elevated to the surface when needed.

In 1958, after such dramatic advance promotional efforts on the part of the U.S. Air Force and Avro-Canada, the physical results were represented in the Avrocar. Instead of a radical new jet engine, the circular platform of the Avrocar was lifted into the air by many small conventional jets. An analysis of the initial test flights concluded that the vehicle was underpowered and unstable. The ambitious plans to create a flying saucer were abandoned, and the vehicles themselves were relegated to displays at the Smithsonian and Wright-Patterson.

Conspiracy theorists, however, maintain that the feeble demonstration of the Avrocar was an exercise in public disinformation. They believe that the air force continued to develop the saucer-shaped superships at Area 51 in Nevada and that many of the huge "motherships" sighted in the skies recently have been our very own human flying saucers.

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PROJECT SPELLBINDER

CIA neurosurgeons sought to implant electrodes into the brain of an assassin created to kill Fidel Castro.

In 1964 a subproject of the CIA's experimental MK-Ultra research program, MKSEARCH, began a refined search for the perfect truth serum.

When Richard Helms became the director of the CIA in 1966, he began to push hard for more effective results in the mind-control projects. The few cautions regarding working with "expendables" were discarded. The researchers were informed that they would be receiving a steady arrival of Viet Cong captives on whom to experiment. The prisoners of war were to be considered expendable, already listed as missing in action or killed in Vietnam.

The special mission of Project Spellbinder was to create an effective sleeper killer, a "Manchurian Candidate" who would be assigned to assassinate Cuba's revolutionary leader Fidel Castro. The programmed assassin would be hypnotized, drugged, or conditioned through a combination of mind-control techniques to kill without being aware of his or her lethal programming. The assassin would be "triggered" into entering a trance state and committing the murder by a key word, phrase, or symbol. Once the target victim (in this case, Castro) had been assassinated, the programmed subject would have no memory of his or her role in the murder—and quite likely would be killed by Castro's bodyguards or arrested, convicted, and sentenced, unaware that he or she was programmed to kill by the mind manipulators of Spellbinder.

A hypnotist was selected from among candidates from the American Society of Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis, an individual who expressed no qualms about being involved in experiments with subjects who might die during the series of drug, hypnosis, and behavior-modification techniques.

After numerous unsuccessful attempts to program potential assassins—and no records of how many "expendables" were lost—Spellbinder was halted and declared a complete failure. Or at least that is what they would like us to believe. In 1972 Richard Helms ordered records of all 150 individual projects of MK-Ultra destroyed, including those of Project Spellbinder.

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PROJECT STARGATE

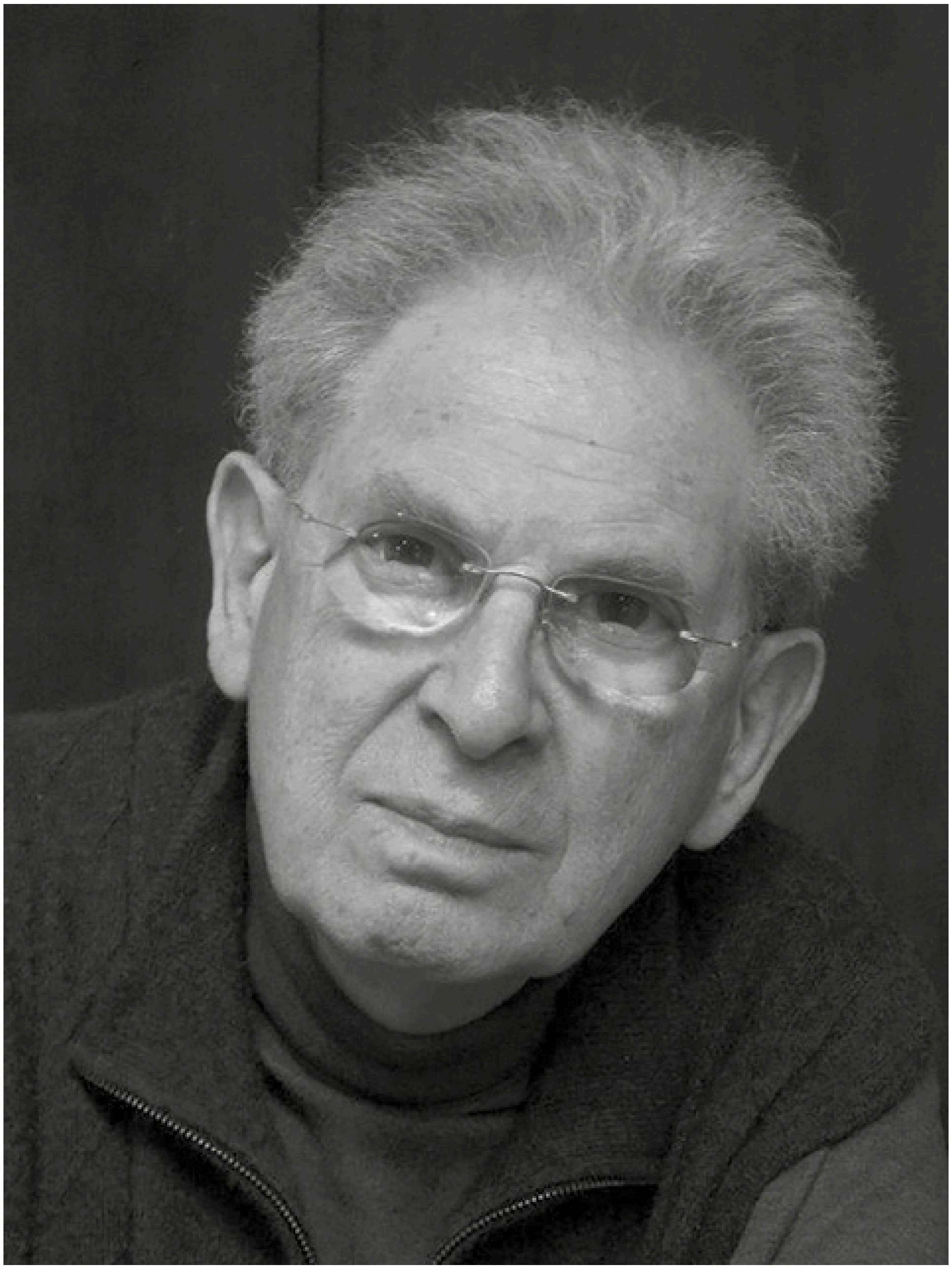
The CIA spent over $20 million training remote viewers to keep a "psychic eye" on Soviet military projects.

The U.S. public is used to discovering that its military has trouble keeping its budgets under control. Still, many were surprised in 1995 when the Pentagon simultaneously revealed the existence of and subsequent shut down of Project Stargate, which had spent $20 million over 23 years to find and train psychics to wage secretive warfare on the Soviets by way of "remote viewing."

Defined in a declassified Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) report as "The acquisition and description by mental means of information blocked from ordinary perception by distance, shielding, or time," remote viewing gained the Pentagon's interest in the early 1970s after the DIA discovered that the Soviets had been trying to develop their own psychic spies and wanted to ensure that the U.S. did not fall behind in this previously unknown area of espionage. Interest was strong enough that NASA, the military, and the CIA chipped in to supply the budget.

Originally known as Project Sun Streak and undergoing several name changes before its operators settled on Stargate, the program employed at least twenty psychics at various times and apparently notched a few intelligence wins.

Research began in 1972 at the Stanford Research Institute (SRI) in Palo Alto, California. Russell Targ, one of the directors of the research, said that the psychics were able to achieve remarkable results that he as a physicist would not have believed if he had not witnessed them himself.



Physicist and parapsychologist Russell Targ (pictured) and engineer Harold Puthoff at the Stanford Research Institute worked for years to develop remote viewing technologies.

In one instance, Pat Price, a former Burbank, California, police commissioner, sat in the Palo Alto laboratory and gave CIA officers the details of some of the equipment at a Soviet "Star Wars" weapon factory. To check out Price's "controlled remote viewing" (CRV) abilities, the CIA directed a spy satellite to photograph the site. High-resolution photographs revealed the equipment that Price had seen but which no one in American intelligence had known existed. Price also described some equipment that the spy satellite was unable to photograph. Three years later, on-ground intelligence operatives confirmed Price's psychic description as being right on target.

In another display of his psychic prowess, Price pinpointed the location of a Soviet bomber that had gone down in a jungle so dense that intensive aerial searches had failed to locate it. Based on Price's directions, a CIA team was able to remove electronic equipment and secret codes from the downed aircraft.

Dr. David Morehouse, a former Army Ranger officer and CIA operative who was himself a remote viewer, said that the SRI gathered together all the major psychics for whom they could get temporary security clearances and whom they could afford and began to explore whether so-called psychic talent could be controlled.

It became the assignment of the well-known New York artist-psychic-sensitive Ingo Swann to develop the parameters of controlled remote viewing into a rigid discipline. Swann came to SRI in June 1972 and began working with Targ and Dr. Harold "Hal" Puthoff. In October Swann's ability with clairvoyance so impressed two CIA agents that they set up an eight-month pilot program. When his contract with the CIA expired, Swann left SRI in August 1973, but he returned in the fall of 1974 as a consultant. In the late 1970s Swann developed a strict remote-viewing protocol that was used to train new recruits.

"The protocol was turned over to the Defense Intelligence Agency in 1982," Morehouse told reporter Elizabeth Nickson. "It was born in a bed of science, managed and governed in a bed of science, and it was used as a intelligence collection technology, with the understanding that it was not 100% accurate, recognizing that it never will be 100% accurate, recognizing that no other intelligence collecting methodologies are 100% accurate." According to Morehouse, remote viewing was simply one more method of gathering the pieces of a puzzle.

In time, a proven stable of remote viewers was established. In test after test, the psychics viewed secret installations worldwide, read documents in locked safes, and witnessed events that took place behind closed doors.

In 1983 Swann, working with Puthoff, believed that he had been able to develop an accurate model of how the collective unconscious communicates information to conscious awareness. The ability to employ extrasensory abilities, such as remote viewing, Swann maintained, is akin to language, an innate human faculty, but like language it must be learned to be effective. Theoretically, according to Swann's insight, anyone should be able to be trained to produce accurate, detailed target data.

According to Lyn Buchanan, one of the remote viewers who worked with Army Intelligence and the CIA, CRV develops communication between the conscious and the subconscious minds. The subconscious relays information on a "target," prompting the hand of the remote viewer to begin to make symbols representing the objective on sheets of paper.

The remote viewer does not enter a trance state but remains wide awake, yet he or she experiences insights, emotions, and mental impressions of the target. In one sense, the remote viewer bilocates—that is, exists in two places at once.

At times, the research went far beyond remote viewing. Palmistry, crystal balls, LSD, and supposedly killing goats with psychic powers were all studied at some point during the military's decades-long attempt to harness New Age phenomena for offensive purposes.

Stargate was disbanded and declassified in December 1995, when a government-funded, two-person panel evaluated the program and concluded that it did not have any great value in intelligence operations. The news was greeted with largely humorous reactions, especially after Jon Ronson's 2004 book. *The Men Who Stare at Goats,* and its 2009 comedic film adaptation by George Clooney.

A number of the remote viewers later went on to teach CRV to private individuals. Skeptic Ray Hyman, professor emeritus in psychology at the University of Oregon, has commented that he didn't see any science at work in the SRI program in remote viewing, only guesswork. And even if CRV worked some of the time, Hyman said, it was too erratic to be dependable.

On the other hand, given how long the project functioned in secret, the number of names it had and varying sources of under-the-radar government funding, can we be certain that even more secret groups of remote viewers were not trained and put into action?

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PROPAGANDA ASSETS INVENTORY

Although the CIA is better known for its intelligence-gathering apparatus and occasional coups d'etat, it also spent years pushing a secret psychological influencing campaign.

One of the least known divisions in the Central Intelligence Agency was also one of its longest running. The generically named Propaganda Assets Inventory was not some bookkeeping operation but instead a decades-long mission to control the creation and dissemination of news, culture, and opinion through America and the world.

The CIA used what was known as the "long-leash policy" to fund an array of groups—ranging from campus student organizations to news outlets and cultural institutions—secretively so that those receiving the support never knew who it came from. In this way, the CIA was able to operate a secretive influencing machine referred to as the "Mighty Wurlitzer," which allowed them to disseminate messages around the world. It also allowed them to spread an image of America as the center of creativity and artistic freedom. Through the Propaganda Assets Inventory and its art-world front, the Congress for Cultural Freedom, the CIA backed abstract expressionist painters and small art magazines all the way up to the *New York Times* (which had CIA agents on staff as reporters).

The generically named Propaganda Assets Inventory was … a decades-long mission to control the creation and dissemination of news, culture, and opinion through America and the world.

At one point, claims that all these groups were unwitting CIA fronts would have been considered beyond the pale. But when the underground leftist magazine *Ramparts* unveiled the operation in its March 1967 issue, what seemed like an insane conspiracy theory was shown to be nothing less than the truth.

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PROPAGANDA DUE (P2)

Even for Italy, a country rife with secret societies and conspiratorial thinking, this Masonic lodge has been connected to a shocking array of scandals.

Although the Freemasons are frequently accused of having their hands in many shadowy goings-on, the proof for such beliefs is often limited. One dramatic exception to that rule took place on May 17, 1981. On that day, Italian police officers raiding a business in Tuscany made a completely unexpected discovery. They found a list of nearly 1,000 people who were apparently members of a secret Masonic lodge known as Propaganda Due (P2) whose organizing principle was to use any means necessary (including terrorism and government overthrow) to keep the country free from communism.

Closely connected to the CIA and the right-wing network of armed groups organized under Operation Gladio, the P2 had many prominent members for such a secretive group. Some of the better-known members included:

Silvo Berlusconi: The media magnate and long-serving Italian prime minister, Berlusconi was named in the 1981 list before he became a famous mogul. He dodged associations with P2 throughout his scandal-plagued political career.

Roberto Calvi: The chairman of Banco Ambrosiano, one of Italy's largest banks, Calvi was known as "God's banker" due to his close-knit relationship with the Vatican. He was found hanging dead under London's Blackfriars Bridge in 1982, a year after he had gone on trial for illegal currency dealings that may have been linked to the Vatican. Though long considered a suicide, his death is viewed as suspicious by some who believe he had become a liability to the P2 and do not believe that the location of his death was a coincidence: P2 members called each other *frati neri*, or "black friars."

Licio Gelli: The widely acknowledged mastermind of P2, Gelli was a lifelong fascist who had fought on Franco's side during the Spanish Civil War, collaborated with Mussolini's government and the Nazis, and spent decades using P2's connections in the police, military, and intelligence services to wage warfare on leftists and suspected communists. Nicknamed "King Cobra," Gelli was investigated for Calvi's murder, suspected of involvement in the failed fascist-led Borghese Coup of 1970, and connected to the 1980 attack by right-wing terrorists in Bologna, which killed 85 people.

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A venerable master and mastermind of P2, financier and fascist Licio Gelli was later on the CIA payroll to spy on terrorists in Italy.

THE PROTOCOLS OF THE LEARNED ELDERS OF ZION

Despite having been repeatedly proven fake, the Protocols have been used for over a century to perpetuate the myth of a global Jewish conspiracy.

The most infamous anti-Semitic document of modern times, *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion* purports to be the minutes from a meeting at which a group of Jewish leaders reveals their plans to take over the world. No matter how often the work is proved to be not just a forgery but possibly an intentional piece of misinformation created by the Russian secret police, some conspiracy theorists insist on it being proof of a Jewish cabal.

Since first being printed in 1903, the *Protocols* has been translated into many languages and printed around the world. Its origins are somewhat murky, but what is known is that it is not an original work but rather draws heavily on other conspiracy-minded works from the 19th century.

Some scholars point to *The Secrets of the Elders of Bourg-Fontaine*, a forged work that was used to discredit the followers of Jansenism, an anti-Jesuit French Catholic movement among the secular clergy as a possible inspiration for the style of the *Protocols*. The mathematical genius Blaise Pascal, who devoted himself to religious studies and is perhaps best known today for his *Pensées*, was a Jansenist and wrote *Provincial Letters*, heavily critical of the Jesuits. *Secrets of the Elders* was probably written in retaliation and provided some inflammatory accusations that could be rewritten as attacks against the Jews or anyone else whom a plagiarist wished to defame.

Another work that some researchers point out has having language and format identical to the *Protocols* is *The Secret Plan of the Order* (1828). This book claims to reveal the Great Jesuit Conspiracy to control the Roman Catholic hierarchy, the pope, all the European monarchies, and to establish a world government run by Jesuits. Again, the fantasy of a plot by Jesuits to control the world could easily be shifted to a Jewish plot for global domination.

Some researchers feel the seed for the myth of a global Jewish conspiracy may have been planted circa 1799, after Abbé Augustin Barruel published his four-volume study entitled *Memoirs Illustrating the History of Jacobinism*. Barruel's purpose for writing such an extensive work was to warn the European nations that the Illuminati sought to promote anarchy, revolution, and the dissolution of all monarchies. The secret society's master plan was to destroy the aristocracy and appear to bring power to the people while, in reality, exploiting the common folk as puppets. Barruel was convinced that the Illuminati had worked behind the scenes to bring about the French Revolution, the first of several political uprisings to come. In 1797, two years before Barruel's much more famous work, John Robison's book *Proofs of a Conspiracy against All of the Religions and Governments of Europe, Carried On in the Secret Meetings of Freemasons, Illuminati, and Reading Societies* also outlined the plot of world domination being set in motion by the Illuminati, the Freemasons, and other secret societies.

Although neither Robison nor Barruel attacked Jews or even made any mention of them, in 1806 Barruel received a letter from J. B. Simonini, who claimed to have discovered an ancient, wealthy, and powerful sect of Jews who had confessed to him that they had formed the Illuminati and the Freemasons. Their next coup would be to install a Jewish pope, gain control of the Catholic Church, then begin to seize all the monarchies and nations of the world.

Whether or not Barruel took seriously the fanciful notion of an ancient Jewish cabal controlling the world's secret societies, a former official in the Prussian postal service, Hermann Goedsche, thought the idea of a worldwide Jewish conspiracy would provide an interesting chapter in his novel *Biarritz* (1868), published under his pen name, Sir John Retcliffe. In the chapter entitled "In the Jewish Cemetery in Prague," the author spun a tale of how every hundred years the elders of the twelve tribes of Israel gather at the graveside of the most senior rabbi and tell Satan of their plot to enslave the Gentile world.

Goedsche had already gained some notoriety for forging letters indicating that democratic leader Benedict Waldeck was conspiring to assassinate Frederick William IV, the king of Prussia. Goedsche's plot was discovered and he was dismissed from the postal service. From writing forgeries to writing fiction was not a great expansion of his abilities. However well the novel *Biarritz* may have been received, in 1872 the single chapter about the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel meeting with Satan in a Prague graveyard was excerpted from the context of the novel and reprinted in Russia as pamphlet based on fact. In 1881 the French paper *Le Contemporain* reprinted the story as fact supposedly reported by an English diplomat, Sir John Radcliff (adapting Goedsche's pen name), who planned a full-length book on the secret meeting entitled *Annals of the Political and Historic Events of the Last Ten Years*.

In 1891 the same tale, with some modifications, appeared in the Russian newspaper *Novorossiysky Telegraf*, which purported that the work was based on a speech made in 1869 by a rabbi to a secret Sanhedrin. By 1900 this "speech" was being used to justify pogroms against the Jews. In 1903, in Kishinev in the Ukraine, forty-five Jews were killed, four hundred were injured, and 1,300 Jewish homes and businesses were destroyed.

The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion was first published in Russia in 1903. The book alleges to be series of lectures in which a member of the secret Jewish world government (the Elders of Zion) reveals the plan for world domination. Representative titles among the twenty-four separate "protocols" include "Materialism Replaces Religion," "World-Wide Wars," "Control of the Press," "Arrest of Opponents," and "Power of Gold."

The work was well used by the tsar's secret police not only to justify a pogrom against all Jews but, just prior to the Russian Revolution of 1905, to enlarge the circle of violence against all revolutionaries. The *Protocols* soon spread to Germany, where Jews were being targeted as supposedly the cause of the defeat in World War I. Within another decade the Nazi party would embrace the stereotypes and lies in *Protocols* as absolute truth and as justification for igniting the Holocaust.

Within another decade the Nazi party would embrace the stereotypes and lies in *Protocols* as absolute truth and as justification for igniting the Holocaust.

The *Protocols* was translated into an English-language edition by Victor Marsden of London's *Morning Post*. Copies were distributed in the U.S. by Boris Brasol, a former Tsarist prosecutor. In his introduction to the book, Marsden warned that the Jews were creating wars and revolutions to destroy the white Gentile race.

The auto magnate Henry Ford's newspaper the *Dearborn Independent* serialized the book in 1920 in a series entitled "The International Jew: The World's Foremost Problem." The columns were later published in book form. Half a million copies were printed. For years, rumors persisted that each new Ford car came with a copy of the *Protocols*.

In August 1921 the *New York Times* ran editorials by Phillip Graves of the *Times* of London, who exposed the *Protocols* as a plagiarism of a rare French political satire, *Dialogues in Hell between Machiavelli and Montesquieu* (also known as *Dialogues of Geneva*), written by Maurice Joly in 1864. Joly's pamphlet envisions a conversation between Montesquieu (representing liberalism) and Machiavelli (representing autocracy) which it uses to create a thinly veiled satirical portrait of Napoleon III (who was deposed in 1871). Joly had the pamphlet published in Belgium, then smuggled it over the French border. Police seized and confiscated as many copies as they could, then managed to trace the authorship to Joly, who was tried and imprisoned in 1865. As Graves pointed out, over 160 passages from the *Protocols*—nearly half the text—are very similar to ones found in Joly's book. Some sections of the *Protocols* are nearly word for word from the French attorney's imagined dialogue between representatives of two opposing political ideologies. As Graves noted, the principal differences are the change of time reference from the past to the future and the fact that Joly does not mention Jews in his pamphlet.

As it turns out, Joly himself appears to have plagiarized a large amount of text from a popular novel by Eugene Sue, *The Mysteries of Paris* (1843). In Sue's novel the hellish plotters are Jesuits, and there is no mention of any Jewish conspiracy. Interestingly, Sue's well-known novel *The Wandering Jew* (1844) is not about Jews either.

The *Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*, it would seem, is an amalgam of plagiarized political pamphlets, fictional documents, and various inflammatory works—many of which in their original context were attacks on Jesuits rather than Jews.

Nevertheless, it remains popular in numerous countries and is frequently cited by anti-Semitic conspiracy theorists as proof of their beliefs. Stanford University professor Steven J. Zipperstein wrote that the *Protocols'* popularity is due to it being "endlessly versatile, a Rorschach test onto which a great assortment of convictions can readily be sketched."

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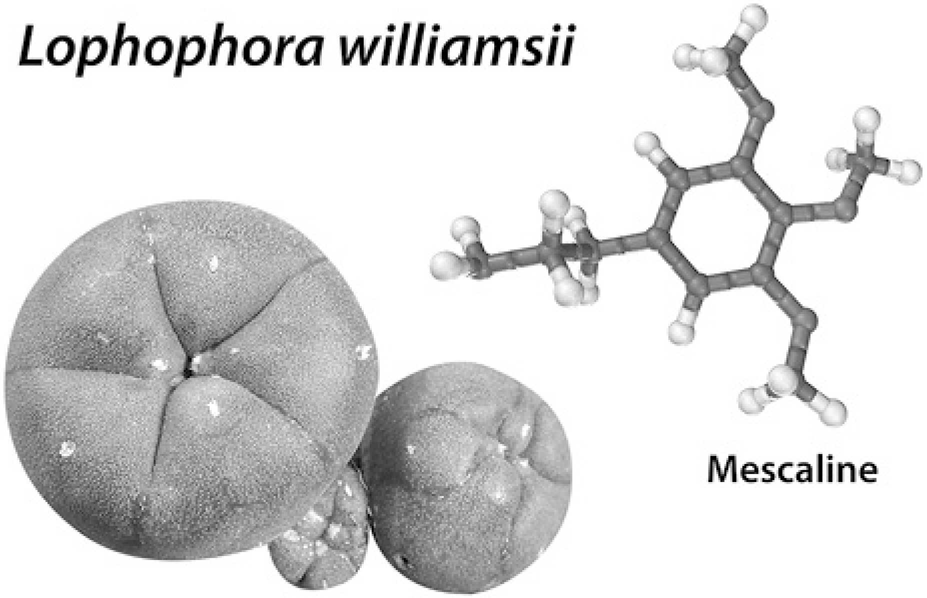
PSYCHEDELICS AND THE CIA

While the counterculture was taking LSD, tuning in, and dropping out, the CIA was experimenting with psychedelics as the weapons of future warfare.

Throughout all of humankind's history on the planet, certain mushrooms, extracts from cacti, various roots and herbs, and other unlikely substances have been chewed and ingested, not for the purpose of sustaining life, but for the physiological and psychological effects they have on the body and the brain. Cults of mystical expression have grown up around the use of these mind-altering substances, for many shamans and priests believed that they could open portals to higher planes of consciousness and even to other worlds by ingesting certain plants. The ancient Greeks held the mushroom sacred, and some contemporary researchers have postulated that the famed Oracle at Delphi may have ingested some form of psychedelic drug.

Such drugs as mescaline (from the peyote cactus) and so-called magic mushrooms came to be known as "psychedelic" because they cause people to hallucinate, to see and hear things that are not really there. Dr. Humphrey Osmond began studying hallucinogens at a hospital in Saskatchewan in 1952 when he was examining the similarities between mescaline and the adrenaline molecule, and it was he who coined the word *psychedelic* to describe the effects of mind-altering drugs.



Mescaline is a hallucinogenic drug derived commonly from the desert peyote plant (pictured), but it can also be made from the San Pedro cactus, the Peruvian torch, and the Bolivian torch cactus.

Though serious medical researchers in the early 1950s focused on psychedelics for purposes of learning more about the human brain, relieving pain, finding antidotes to drug overdoses, and other medical applications, the Central Intelligence Agency could not have cared less about those high-minded purposes. The Agency wanted a drug that would promote effective interrogations. They had already experimented with barbiturates, peyote, marijuana, and hypnosis in an effort to find something that really worked without any fuss or muss when it came time to refresh stubborn memories and loosen tongues.

On May 2, 1938, Dr. Albert Hofmann of the Sandoz Research Laboratories in Basel, Switzerland, first synthesized lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD). On April 19, 1943, five years after synthesizing the drug, Hofmann accidentally inhaled a minute quantity while working with other ergot derivatives and experienced a pleasant feeling of inebriation, which consisted of hallucinations that lasted for several hours. Lysergic acid is found naturally in ergot, a fungus that grows on rye and other grains, and throughout history it has been used in various medications. Some researchers have even attributed ingestion of ergot to hallucinations which in the Middle Ages may have caused people to believe that they could fly through the air like witches or transform themselves into werewolves.

During the twenty years following World War II, LSD was used to study brain chemistry and in experimental treatment of patients with schizophrenia and other mental disorders, as well as cancer patients and alcoholics. LSD was found to create such primary effects as the following:

1. A feeling of being one with the universe
2. Recognition of two identities
3. A change in the usual concept of self
4. New perceptions of space and time
5. Heightened sensory perceptions
6. A feeling that one has been touched by a profound understanding of religion or philosophy
7. A gamut of rapidly changing emotions
8. Increased sensitivity for the feelings of others
9. Psychotic changes, such as illusions, hallucinations, paranoid delusions, and severe anxiety

In the 1950s and ’60s, while LSD was being hailed by some individuals as “mind-expanding,” the CIA rejoiced that it now possessed a chemical that they believed was more effective than hypnosis, marijuana, peyote, or any other drug—effective beyond their wildest dreams—although not so much for interrogation as for humiliation.

In their book *Acid Dreams: The CIA, LSD, and the Sixties Rebellion* (1985), Martin A. Lee and Bruce Shlain write that CIA director Richard Helms saw in LSD the potential to induce temporary insanity in target individuals, causing them to behave in a manner that would discredit them and any information that they might wish to disseminate. To be certain of the drug’s effectiveness, Dr. Sidney Gottlieb ordered agents to test LSD on themselves. According to Lee and Shlain, agents would surreptitiously slip the drug into each other’s drinks. As soon as the target ingested the LSD, his colleague would inform him so he would take the rest of the day “to turn on, tune in, and drop out.”

Frank Olson worked for the CIA at Fort Detrick, Maryland, studying the use of LSD to enhance interrogations. In the autumn of 1953 Olson went to Europe to observe the interrogation of former Nazis and Soviet citizens at a secret U.S. base. In late November he joined a group of government officials at a conference at Deep Creek Lodge in western Maryland. It was here that he was unknowingly slipped LSD in his drink. Olson began acting strangely withdrawn and told his wife and son that he was going to quit his job. Early in the morning of November 29, he went through the window of his room at the Statler Hotel in New York.

Once he had assessed the power of LSD on CIA agents, including the expendable Dr. Olson, Dr. Gottlieb, the director of the top-secret MK-Ultra, decided to test the “acid” on an unsuspecting civilian population. MK-Ultra set up Operation Midnight Climax and used drug-addicted prostitutes to pick up men at bars and slip LSD into their drinks.

In 1963, Dr. Timothy Leary and Dr. Richard Alpert were discharged from their positions at Harvard University for their enthusiasm in advocating the mind-expanding properties of LSD. Undaunted, the two went on to establish colonies of their International Federation of Internal Freedom. Throughout most of the 1960s Leary was the primary and best-known prophet of the LSD movement, the counterculture guru who urged the flower children to “tune in, turn on, drop out.”

One of the students at Harvard who agreed to participate in a "psychological experiment" with LSD was Theodore Kaczynski, who would later gain notoriety as the Unabomber.

One of the students at Harvard who agreed to participate in a "psychological experiment" with LSD was Theodore Kaczynski, who would later gain notoriety as the Unabomber. The professor in charge of these CIA-sponsored experiments was Dr. Henry Murray, who had served with the OSS in World War II. Murray urged Gottlieb to continue certain experiments in mind control using hallucinogenic drugs that the Nazis had conducted in the concentration camps with prisoners as unknowing victims. One has to wonder if the long-term effects of LSD transformed Kaczynski from guinea pig to mad bomber—and how many other participants of Dr. Murray's experiments have exploded into seemingly unprovoked and unplanned acts of violence.

The Food and Drug Administration noted that extended use of the drug could lead to mood swings, including depression, which could in turn lead to suicide. Time and space distortions could present obvious traffic dangers. A sudden onset of hallucinations could endanger the users and those with them.

It was such effects as these that convinced Maj. Gen. William Creasy, chief officer of the Army Chemical Corps, that LSD and other psychoactive drugs would be the weapons of the future. If CIA agents or Special Forces units spiked a city's water supply with LSD, the enemies within would offer no resistance. Creasy admitted to journalists who questioned his views of a chemical invasion that the prospect of driving people insane for a few hours was not particularly pleasant, but he shrugged off this negative aspect, noting that war was never pleasant.

Some conspiracy theorists assert that when a CIA plan to send clouds of psychochemical weapons over major U.S. cities to test their effectiveness was denied, they settled for making as much LSD as possible available to the youth counterculture. In the late 1960s the growing use of psychedelics by the "hippies" and those who felt alienated from mainstream American society because of their anti–Vietnam War sentiments contributed to a growing traffic in illegal distribution of the drugs on the street corners and dark alleys of cities throughout the United States.

While a secret group within the government was making LSD available to rebels and war protesters, others were arguing that the unpredictable effects of such drugs as LSD, mescaline, and psilocybin necessitated legislation to curb their use. In 1970 the U.S. Controlled Substances Act made open distribution of such mind-altering substances illegal. Since that time, however, the FDA has allowed projects by medical researchers to continue to explore the potential of psychedelics, explaining that the Controlled Substances Act was never intended to hinder legitimate research, only the misuse and abuse of the drugs.

During the 1990s researchers reported medical promise for psychedelic drugs in treating alcoholism and addiction to pain medications, and in alleviating pain in cancer patients. More recently, it has become popular for people to use smaller amounts of LSD to aid in their therapy, a practice known as "microdosing." Because the drugs are currently classified as controlled substances, research scientists must apply to the Drug Enforcement Administration for a permit and file an application with the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the FDA. Of course, such restrictions do not hinder the secret government from utilizing LSD in any manner that will serve the New World Order best.

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PSYWAR

You can run, but you cannot hide from psychotronic weapons.

It is well known that strobe lights can trigger epileptic-type seizures. Even the pulsating lights from television cartoons and other programming have prompted seizures and made both children and adults become ill. Human sensory receivers are extremely susceptible to disturbances in the electromagnetic and sonic spectrums that are ordinary and usual aspects of our environment. If some nation or agency were to focus an attack on the human sensory apparatus of a population by directing weapons that utilized microwaves, lasers, and acoustics, the victimized people would soon capitulate.

A quotation attributed to Major I. Chernishev of the Russian army has circulated widely on the internet. "It is completely clear," according to the major, "that the state which is first to create such weapons will achieve incomparable superiority." The weapons to which Major Chernishev refers are psychotronic instruments designed to introduce subliminal messages or to alter the body's psychological and data-processing capabilities. Using electromagnetic, vortex, or acoustical energy waves, such weapons would introduce to the minds of its human victims impulses or data that would confuse and in extreme cases completely incapacitate the internal signals that normally keep the body in balance. As yet, there are no defenses against psychotronic weaponry. As some intelligence experts have observed, computers can be protected by a firewall, but the human mind cannot.

The psychotronic instruments of warfare that have been rumored to be in development included the following:

- Russian Virus 666, a computer virus that creates a visual combination of colors which can place computer operators in a trance state and inject thoughts into their subconscious. In some cases, Virus 666 can cause arrhythmia of the heart.
- Acoustic rifles that can vibrate the internal organs of human targets, stunning or nauseating the victims. At high power and close range, it can knock a person down with a shock wave or cause the enemy's inner organs to spasm and induce great pain. At longer range, the acoustic or sonic frequencies can cause the hair cells in the inner ear to vibrate so rapidly that the enemy is incapacitated due to vertigo and nausea. The sonic waves of such rifles can penetrate buildings.

- Microwave rifles that can heat up the body of an enemy and induce epilepsy-like seizures or cause cardiac arrest.
- The Black Widow, a pulse wave weapon that can affect the signal from the motor cortex of the enemy's brain and cause uncontrollable, involuntary muscle spasms.
- An interrogation psychotronic device that can remove information stored in a person's brain, send it to a computer for modification, then reinsert it into the brain so that the interrogators can control the subject.
- Psychotronic generators that can be directed toward large populations and cause mass hallucinations, sickness, zombielike states, and even death.
- Ultrasound generators capable of performing bloodless surgeries—or assassinations—without leaving a mark on the skin.
- In 2007, Major-General Boris Ratnikov of the Russian Federal Custodial Service admitted that work continued on the creation of a psychotronic weapon that could make normal individuals become muddleheaded zombies at a distance of hundreds of miles. Russia, Major-General Ratnikov said, had been working on the effects of a psychotropic impact on humans since the 1920s. After the break-up of the Soviet Union, twenty centers working on such weapons were said to be closed, but work continued in secret laboratories. In less than a decade, Ratnikov said, psychotronic devices would be more dangerous than nuclear weapons.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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An EMP simulator is tested on a Boeing aircraft at Kirtland AFB in this 1979 photograph. EMP weapons can knock out communications and electrical power.

- In July 2009, North Korea was rumored to have created a super Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) that would be capable of knocking out the electric grid of the lower forty-eight states if it were to be utilized against the United States.
- In late October 2011, Spanish authorities likely tested a new EMP weapon—developed during the Iraq war—on the unsuspecting citizens on a city south of Malaga, Spain. For one hour, no mobile phones within 500 meters of the police station would work. In addition, no cars within that area could be made to start, and all television signals were knocked out. During the duration of the test, thousands of unsuspecting Spanish inhabitants of the city had their normal lives completely disrupted.
- Beginning in 2018, dozens of U.S. diplomats around the world—first in China, but later in Cuba and other countries—began reporting mysterious symptoms. Later dubbed "Havana Syndrome," the effects appeared similar to what could be expected from the use of microwave weapons. As one report put it, the diplomats were dealing with the "effects of directed, pulse radio frequency energy."

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Conspiracy
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Q, R

QANON

The world is being run by a terrifying elite of Satanic pedophiles who will stop at nothing to crush everything good and great about America; only the mysterious Q and his legion of "digital soldiers" stand in their way.

Academics and other experts have argued about whether the group known as QAnon is a conspiracy theory, a quasi-religious cult, a massive live-action role-playing game, a psyops operation that got out of control, some mixture of all of those, or none. Those arguments will likely continue for some time because whatever else QAnon is, it bears little resemblance to anything that came before it, at least in terms of complexity and scale.

Though some version of it could have existed beforehand, some of the earliest iterations of QAnon belief started as posts on the anything-goes free-speech digital bulletin board 4chan in late 2017. The posts were supposedly the work of "Q," a high-ranking military intelligence officer with connections and security clearance that gave them inside "intel" on a secret operation supposedly in the works in the Trump administration. Littered with seemingly authentic military code phrases, references to other posts, and declarations that something dramatic was about to happen, these "Q-Drops" attracted a growing crowd of adherents, who parsed the posts for clues with numerological intensity. With increasing fervency through the Trump presidency, QAnon supporters expressed both an ever-greater panic about the dark forces arrayed against them and an ever-deeper conviction that a cleansing event (called "The Storm" or "The Great Awakening," among other terms) was coming to sweep away the evildoers.

Like many conspiracy theories, no single, complete set of beliefs exists that all QAnon followers adhere to. The often opaque and contradictory theories are spread across the nearly 5,000 Q-Drops and the innumerable posts and YouTube videos discussing them. At its core, though, QAnon is another conspiracy theory that says that the world is run by a secret, global elite. In this case, the elite are powerful, liberal Democrats who also happen to be Satan-worshipping pedophiles who use the media to mock and crush their opposition; seek to undermine America; and, more likely than not, run a global child sex slavery operation. The resistance deployed against this dark alliance was the Trump administration and brave patriots like Q who were quietly amassing their forces for the day when mass arrests (and, in the hopes of many followers, mass executions) would purge the world of this evil force.

Also, like many conspiracies before it, many of the deeper tenets of QAnon drew widely from other sources. It built in some ways off previously existing theories like "Pizzagate," which in 2016 had some conspiracy researchers claiming that words like "cheese pizza" in the leaked emails from Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman, John Podesta, was code for a child pornography ring supposedly headquartered at a Washington, D.C., pizza restaurant (which was at one point stormed by an assault rifle-wielding believer who mistakenly believed he could rescue children held there). The belief that Democrats were harvesting the blood of kidnapped babies and children to harvest adrenochrome (a drug that QAnon followers thought the vampirelike elites used to stay young) came from ancient, anti-Semitic "blood libel" beliefs that Jews kidnapped Christian babies to steal their blood. QAnon also built on older conspiracy theories like the Clinton Death List and incorporated venerable anti-Semitic tropes about the Rothschilds and George Soros acting as manipulators of world affairs.

Sometimes called a cult, QAnon is a bizarre conspiracy group that asserts the United States is run by a secret cabal of cannibalistic child molesters who are responsible for President Trump losing the 2020 election.

Unlike other conspiracy theories, though, QAnon was a more active experience. Rather than just portraying a dark and terrifying world beyond its followers' control, it actively engaged them as "digital soldiers" in the campaign to decode Q-Drops and spread the word online through meme-ing, repetition of catchphrases ("trust the plan," "where we go one, we go all," "enjoy the show"), and producing explanatory videos that could bring in more followers. QAnon's growth was explosive. Despite having no charismatic leader, it began to invite comparisons to a cult, not just for the unshakeable faith of many adherents but the way the almost entirely online phenomenon manifested in the real world, particularly after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2018, an unemployed ex-Marine convinced by a Q-Drop that Democrats were hiding an FBI report blocked a bridge near the Hoover Dam with his homemade armored truck, several weapons, and hundreds of rounds of ammunition and demanded the report's release. Multiple kidnapping cases occurred in which QAnon followers thought they were saving children. Others threatened politicians and government officials. Child-trafficking organizations were swamped with false leads from QAnon researchers aligned under the "Save the Children" banner. A train engineer in San Pedro, California, derailed a train in order to help "wake people up" about a QAnon-inspired conspiracy theory regarding the sinister purpose of the U.S. Navy medical ship *Mercy*.

Once violence was attached to QAnon, social media platforms began kicking QAnon content off, and the Q-Drop outlet had to shift from 4chan to 8chan to eventually 8kun before appearing to shut down in late 2020. Though the identity of the author(s) of the original Q-Drops may be lost to time, the 2021 documentary *Q: Into the Storm* appeared to indicate that Jim and Ron Watkins—an entrepreneurial father-and-son team with a knack for attracting online attention and hosting free-speech extremist websites—had at one point taken over the identity of Q.

But QAnon followers' belief in the coming storm was resilient. A Q-Drop from 2020 urged people, "Deploy camouflage. Drop all references re: 'Q' 'Qanon' etc. to avoid ban/termination." The theories spread far beyond committed conspiracy theorists into other unusual spaces like New Age, parenting, yoga, and lifestyle social media influencers (the so-called "Pastel QAnon" movement). Similar to how theories about the faked moon landing, foreknowledge of Pearl Harbor, and the John F. Kennedy assassination leaked into the mainstream, QAnon beliefs infiltrated the broader population, especially in right-wing religious pro-Trump circles. This was partially a result of Q-Drops shifting over time from its original secret-intelligence purpose to aligning with extremist Republican views and explicitly using Christian messaging tactics. Near the end of the Trump presidency, the closer bonding of QAnon with die-hard Republicanism resulted in a feedback loop of darker and darker conspiracy theories about liberal perfidy.

Q paraphernalia was common at the January 6, 2021, insurrection attempt at the U.S. Capitol, with a flamboyant, Viking-attired rioter who called himself the "QAnon Shaman" prominently featured in the news coverage. Later that year, a poll showed that about a quarter of all White evangelicals believed that at least part of QAnon was true, as did large swaths of America.

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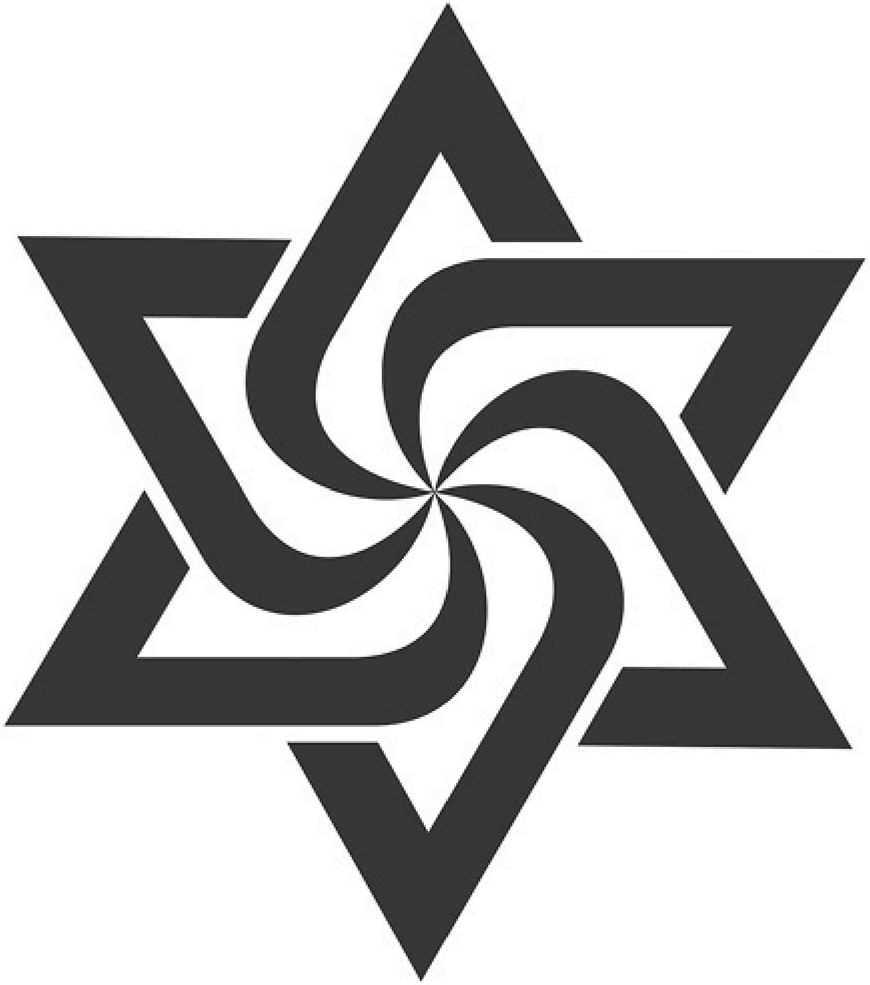
RAELIANS

This UFO cult claims to be cloning people under the directive of the Elohim, the extraterrestrial creators of humans on Earth.

In July 2001 the Raëlian Movement made headlines around the world when one of its members, Brigitte Boisselier, a forty-four-year-old scientist, announced that Clonaid, her team of four doctors and a technician, would soon produce the first human clone. Defying government opposition from President George W. Bush, Congress, Secretary of Health Tommy Thompson, and the Food and Drug Administration, Boisselier refused to disclose the location of Clonaid's two laboratories, other than to state that one was in the United States and the other abroad. Clonaid, established by Raël in 1997, is funded in part by $500,000 from an anonymous couple who want a child cloned from the DNA of their deceased ten-month-old son. Raël states that such cloning will demonstrate the methods employed by the Elohim in their creation of the human species.

So, who is Raël?



The symbol of the Raëlians resembles a Star of David with a center swirl representing the galaxy. An older version of the symbol was replaced because it had a swastika in the center.

French sports journalist and former race-car driver Claude Vorilhon claims to have been contacted by an extraterrestrial being while climbing the Puy de Lassolas volcanic crater near Clermont-Ferrand, France, on December 13, 1973. Vorilhon was astonished when he saw a metallic-looking object in the shape of a flattened bell about thirty feet in diameter descend from the sky. A door opened in the side of the craft, and what appeared to be a humanlike being about four feet in height emerged. Vorilhon soon learned that the being was a member of the Elohim referred to in the creation story in Genesis, the "gods" who made humans in their own image; they did this, according to Vorilhon, by utilizing deoxyribonucleic acid—DNA.

Vorilhon was told that the Elohim had sent great prophets, such as Moses, Ezekiel, Buddha, and Muhammad to guide humankind. Jesus, the fruit of a union between the Elohim and Mary, a daughter of man, was given the mission of making the Elohims' messages of guidance known throughout the world in anticipation of the Age of Apocalypse—which in the original Greek meant "age of revelation," not "end of the world." In this epoch, which the people of Earth entered in 1945, humankind will at last be able to understand scientifically that which the Elohim accomplished eons ago in the Genesis story.

Vorilhon said that the Elohim renamed him "Raël," which means "the man who brings light." Shortly after his encounter with the extraterrestrial, he created the Raëlian Movement, which soon acquired over a thousand members in France. According to the Raëlians, their membership includes about 80,000 people in dozens of countries.

Raël maintains that he established the Raëlian Movement according to instructions given to him by the Elohim. Its aims are to inform humankind of the reality of the Elohim "without convincing," to establish an embassy where the Elohim will be welcome, and to help prepare a human society adapted to the future. In the years since his first contact experience, he has written a number of books, which can be obtained directly from the Raëlians.

Since 2006, they have been headquartered in Las Vegas and have recently claimed to have 130,000 members in more than 80 countries.

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RONALD REAGAN, ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF

If John Hinckley's attempt to kill the president in order to impress a girl had not gone past the planning stage, it would been more funny than frightening.

On March 30, 1981, John Warnock Hinckley Jr. fired six bullets from a Rohn R6-14 .22 revolver into the cluster of Secret Service agents and dignitaries surrounding President Ronald Reagan as he left the Washington, D.C. Hilton Hotel. Before his bodyguards could push Reagan into the armored sedan awaiting him, one of the six slugs ricocheted off a fender, penetrated the president's armpit, and punctured his lung. The assassin's wildly fired bullets also struck Reagan's press secretary, James Brady, in the left temple; police officer Thomas Delahanty in the neck; and Secret Service agent Timothy J. McCarthy in the stomach.

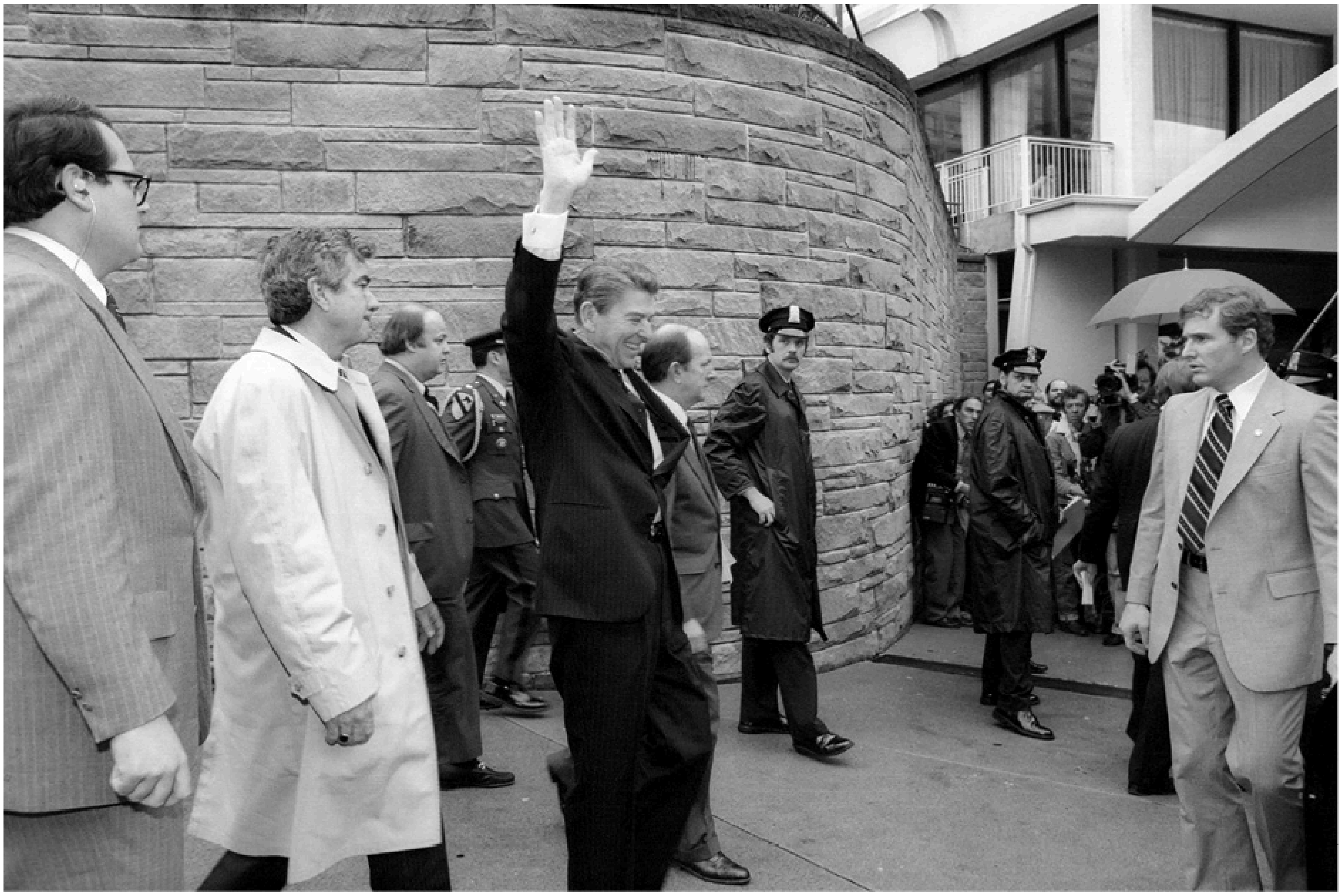
On that same day, Scott Hinckley, John's older brother, had a dinner date at the Denver, Colorado, home of Neil Bush, son of Vice President George H. W. Bush. The Bushes and the Hinckleys had known each other for more than twenty years, starting when Bush and John Sr.

were in the oil business together in Texas. The Hinckleys had made large contributions to the vice president's political campaign. Scott Hinckley was the vice president of his father's Vanderbilt Energy Corporation in Denver, and he had been invited to Neil Bush's home as a date for a girlfriend of Sharon Bush, Neil's wife. The dinner was canceled when news of the attempted assassination reached Denver.

Some of the first news reports stated that at least one shot had been fired from a hotel window above the president's limousine. Such news items immediately prompted claims that there had been a second shooter. As the video clip of the shooting was viewed again and again, it seemed unlikely that Reagan could have been hit from in front when the bulletproof door was opened between him and the assassin. Later news reports explained that a Secret Service agent had fired the shot reported in earlier accounts from his position on the hotel overhang. This supposed clarification only prompted speculation about the president's being shot by one of his own bodyguards.

In Martin Scorsese's 1976 film *Taxi Driver*, Robert DeNiro plays a mentally unstable Vietnam veteran, Travis Bickle, who drives a cab and fantasizes about a beautiful blonde who works at a political campaign headquarters. In his unbalanced state of mind, the taxi driver figures that his assassination of a presidential candidate would really make him somebody in the eyes of the world and of his fantasy object. As the film unfolds, he becomes increasingly depressed at the sleaze and degradation around him and anoints himself the defender of a teenaged prostitute, Iris, played by Jodie Foster. Bickle abandons the plan to kill the candidate in order to impress the woman of his dreams but engages in a violent shootout in which he rescues Iris from her pimps.

John Hinckley Jr. claimed to have seen *Taxi Driver* more than a dozen times, and he became fixated on Jodie Foster and the idea of gaining fame through assassination. When he read that Foster had enrolled at Yale, he enrolled in a Yale writing course so that he could be near her. He left letters and poems in her campus mailbox, and he managed to have two telephone conversations with the actress, during which he assured her that he was not a dangerous individual.



President Ronald Reagan waves to the press shortly before he is shot by John Hinkley Jr. on March 30, 1981, outside the Washington Hilton. Press secretary James Brady (seen third from the left toward the back) received a serious head wound, and Secret Service agent Tim McCarthy (far right), and DC police officer Thomas Delahanty (first officer to the left of McCarthy) were also wounded, but no one was killed.

It was probably in the fall of 1980 that the images from *Taxi Driver* and the unbalanced rage of Travis Bickle began to blend with Hinckley's confused mind to form a reality in which he would gain fame and win Foster's respect if he were to kill the president of the United States. Hinckley decided to stalk President Jimmy Carter and went to one of Carter's campaign appearances, but he left his gun collection—three pistols and two rifles—in his hotel room. When he followed Carter to Nashville, airport security detected handguns in his suitcase. Incredibly, Hinckley was fined $62.50 and released after five hours in custody.

Some conspiracy researchers believe that at this point the unstable young man was already on the radar of the Secret Service and that he might have been tapped by a shadow agency as a potential assassin. Investigations would effortlessly yield intelligence that Hinckley had stalked Senator Ted Kennedy as well as President Carter. Hinckley had a personal library full of books and articles on Robert Kennedy's assassin Sirhan Sirhan and on Arthur Bremer, the failed assassin of George Wallace. In October 1980 he had traveled to Nebraska and had attempted to contact the American Nazi Party. His family connections to the Bush family and prescription for psychoactive drugs have fueled speculation by some that he had been a failed Manchurian Candidate assassin.

On March 29, 1981, Hinckley checked into the Park Central Hotel in Washington. The next day, he wrote a letter to Jodie Foster detailing his intentions to assassinate President Reagan.

Then he dosed himself heavily with Valium, left the hotel, and took a cab to the Washington Hilton to await the president and to make history.

Vice President Bush did fall briefly under a little cloud of suspicion that soon blew away. He was a member of Skull and Bones, the elite secret society of powerhouse overachievers and superstars of business. He had been director of the CIA, and it was rather common knowledge that he enjoyed the support of Agency insiders, who preferred their former chief to Reagan. But none of those activities or positions made him party to an attempted assassination on the commander in chief.

Hinckley was immediately arrested, and his trial began on May 4, 1982. After seven weeks of testimony and three days of jury deliberation, he was found not guilty by reason of insanity. Hinckley was placed in St. Elizabeth's Psychiatric Hospital in Washington, D.C. After thirty-four years of confinement, he was allowed to move in with his mother, as long as he met certain restrictions. In 2021, his lawyers successfully argued for a monitoring period which, if he followed it successfully, would be followed by his unconditional release the next year.

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WILHELM REICH

For refusing to obey an injunction to cease experimentation with cosmic "orgone" energy and UFOs, Wilhelm Reich was sentenced to prison, where he soon died.

The discoveries, harassment, trial, and final silencing of Wilhelm Reich stretched over some three decades. Many of Reich's scientific writings include books that were condemned by establishment experts but later came to be considered classics in medicine, psychoanalysis, sociology, and natural science.

Reich was born March 24, 1897, in imperial Austria. In 1918 he entered the University of Vienna, where he completed the six-year course for a medical degree in four years, graduating in 1922. While still in medical school he attained membership in the Vienna Psychoanalytic Society under Professor Sigmund Freud.

Reich was acknowledged as a brilliant new light on the psychoanalytic horizon. From 1924 to 1930 he was the director of the Seminar for Psychoanalytic Therapy and first clinical assistant at Freud's Psychoanalytic Polyclinic in Vienna. In his early thirties, in addition to doing research into the social causation of neuroses, Reich founded and directed mental hygiene consultation centers in various districts in Vienna and Berlin. From 1934 to 1939 he lectured on biophysics at the Psychological Institute of the University of Oslo, Norway, and did research on his discovery of the biological and cosmic energy that he named "orgone" energy.

In August 1939 Reich transferred his laboratory to Forest Hills, New York, and moved to the United States. From 1939 to 1941 he was associate professor of medical psychology at the New School for Social Research, New York City. In 1942 he founded the Orgone Institute on a

280-acre estate in Rangeley, Maine. The home for the new science of orgonomy was appropriately named "Orgonon." Reich's students and friends established the Wilhelm Reich Foundation in Maine in 1949 to preserve his work and safeguard his discovery of the primordial, mass-free, cosmic orgone energy—the same energy Reich later claimed propels the UFOs that are visiting our planet.

As a young psychoanalyst, Reich searched for the energy (Freud called it "libido") behind the neurotic behavior of his patients. What is it, he asked, that moves a patient to feel and to express emotion? Through experiment Reich discovered a bioelectrical charge at the skin surface of the human being during periods of pleasure, and he noted a diminution or absence of this charge during anxiety. Later experimentation convinced him that this energy is not electrical, but rather a specific biological, organismic energy (hence the name "orgone") that is the life energy per se.

Through years of careful investigation, Reich was able to demonstrate the existence of orgone energy in many ways and to concentrate the energy in his invention, the orgone-energy accumulator (1940). Reich demonstrated the existence of the cosmic orgone energy visually, thermically, electroscopically, by way of his "field meter," and with a Geiger counter. During the period of his greatest productivity, more than a score of top-ranking medical doctors and scientists in the United States and abroad published verification of his discoveries in scientific bulletins and journals. Even the great physicist Albert Einstein confirmed Reich's basic temperature experiment, objectifying the existence of the orgone energy in a letter to Reich dated February 7, 1941.

In 1950, with the advent of the Korean War, Reich prepared his laboratory to help in the war effort. At that time, he worked out his famous Oranur Experiment, in which he investigated the possible antinuclear effects orgone energy might have on nuclear energy. The Oranur Experiment led Reich to the discovery of certain noxious "DOR" clouds (clouds containing "Deadly Orgone" energy), which he believed to be responsible for widespread planetary drought and desertification. Reich also concluded that UFOs were responsible for the "cosmic offal" contained in the typically black and nauseating DOR clouds, and that, in addition to planetary drought, DOR was causing worldwide disease epidemics.

Reich's search for a means to rid the skies over Orgonon of DOR clouds led to the invention of his "cloud-buster," with which he succeeded in producing and stopping rain. Subsequently, the cloud-buster became the "space gun" used on the fateful night when contact was made with extraterrestrial craft hovering over his laboratory.

According to Reich and his associates, this contact with luminous objects in the sky first took place on May 12, 1954, between 9:40 and 10:45 P.M. During this period, Reich contended, men on earth saw, for the first time in history, two "Stars" to the west fade out several times when cosmic energy was drawn from them by means of the cloud-buster. The shock of this experience on Reich and his staff was so great that they did not attempt to repeat such action until October 10, 1954. The reason for their hesitation was fear that they might precipitate an interplanetary war by their experimentation.

In an injunction dated March 19, 1954, and signed by John D. Clifford Jr., federal district judge for the District of Maine, the Food and Drug Administration claimed that orgone energy did not exist. In brief, the FDA injunction implied that Reich was little more than a quack, that he claimed he could cure all kinds of diseases, from cancer to the common cold, and that the public should be protected from his nefarious schemes. Reich's defenders pointed out that none of his many books claimed to cure anything.

From the first, Reich's position was that of a responsible researcher who believed that matters of science belong in a laboratory, not a courtroom. At no time did the FDA provide scientific evidence to contradict the findings of either Reich or his associates. The agency persisted, however, and finally won the case by default when Reich refused to appear in court as a "defendant" in matters about which, he claimed, the FDA knew nothing.

Did Austrian doctor and psychoanalyst Wilhelm Reich truly discover a treatment for cancer and mental illness, or was he merely a fraud who was rightfully prosecuted for deceiving the public?

Reich refused to obey the FDA injunction, which he termed unlawful and which he considered to have been obtained by fraud and deceit. He asserted that his research was too important to be stopped by procedures that had no basis in truth and fact. In his response to the injunction, he wrote: "Scientific matters cannot possibly ever be decided upon in court. They can only be clarified by prolonged, faithful, bona-fide observations in friendly exchange of opinion, never by litigation. The sole purpose of the complainant is to entangle ergonomic basic research in endless costly legal procedures." Reich refused FDA agents access—ordered under the injunction—to his research files and notes, nor would he reveal his antigravity equations. Brought into court in chains, Reich then determined "to get the total infamy on the Court Records."

Reich fought the charges as far as the law would permit. The U.S. Supreme Court, however, refused to review the case.

Reich believed the Earth is in deep trouble. It was this belief that drove him to fight to protect his life-positive discoveries and to get his ideas into the trial record. He told the court that humankind was facing an emergency that challenged the human species and the very principle of life on earth. He warned that the planet was undergoing a process of deep and crucial change on biological, physical, emotional, and cosmic levels, and he urged a stop to the petty quibbling that prevented scientists from fully examining the oncoming crisis.

The courts refused to take Reich's warnings seriously. Despite the fact that Reich informed the court that he had a severe heart condition and would surely die if imprisoned, he was found guilty and sent to jail, where he died eight months later. Thus humankind was left with Reich's legacy of discovery and with his grim warning regarding the advent of UFOs in our atmosphere.

The fiftieth anniversary of Reich's death was celebrated on November 15, 2007, with a major exhibit of the controversial scientist's work at the Jewish Museum in Vienna, the city where he began his work and studied under Sigmund Freud. In New Jersey, the American College of Orgonomy, which provides training for those physicians interested in Reich's legacy, scheduled a conference and a banquet. Later that month, nearly 300 boxes of Reich's unpublished manuscripts and papers were made available for the first time for examination at the Countway Library at Harvard Medical School. The release of these documents honored Reich's request that his scientific papers be opened fifty years after his death.

Some people quickly picked up that the book was, in fact, a finely tuned satire about the war-happy Dr. Strangelove types in the Pentagon and related think tanks.

The formerly discredited scientist is now described by the American Psychoanalytic Association as the first therapist to emphasize character analysis rather than neurotic symptoms. Reich was also a pioneer in linking a healthy sex life, which he defined as "orgiastic potency," to emotional well-being. The scientist who died in prison damned as a fraud was now hailed as "one of the most brilliant, creative, and controversial of the pioneering analysts."

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REPORT FROM IRON MOUNTAIN

When jokes are taken seriously, all kinds of conspiracy theories can result.

In October 1967, Dial Press published a real bombshell of a book. In his introduction to *Report from Iron Mountain*, writer Leonard C. Lewin described the report as a confidential document prepared by a government study group comprised of 15 expert thinkers who were brought together at a secret underground location (Iron Mountain) in order to discuss the subject of the report's subtitle: *On the Possibility and Desirability of Peace*. People were frightened to discover that after studying the upsides and downsides of peace, the report concluded that peace was not the greatest idea long term and that the United States would be better off economically if it continually prepared for war. Anxious discussion about what this meant about the militaristic mania of the nation's leadership ensued.

If only it had been real.

Some people quickly picked up that the book was, in fact, a finely tuned satire about the war-happy Dr. Strangelove types in the Pentagon and related think tanks. They saw how it was specifically written to emulate the way authentic government reports of this type often couched morally deplorable ideas in flat, anodyne bureaucratese. Several weeks after its publication, *U.S. News and World Report* reported that the government flatly denied being the source of the book (some officials worried that it was communist propaganda) and strongly suggested that it was a spoof.

In 1972, Lewin admitted that he had actually written *Report from Iron Mountain*. The inspiration had come when the staff at the popular underground satire magazine *Monocle*, including *The Nation* publisher Victor Navasky and novelist E. L. Doctorow, read a news story that attributed a drop in the stock market to something it called a "peace scare." That should have been the end of the story.

But it wasn't. Because in the late 1980s, long after the book had been relegated to a funny 1960s footnote, several right-wing extremist groups—including the Holocaust-denial organization the Institute for Historical Review—began printing unauthorized editions of *Report from Iron Mountain* as though it were genuine. Lewin sued and was able to stop distribution but not before it was believed by a wide range of conspiracy believers.

The cult of The Restoration of the Ten Commandments had its origins in the late 1970s when a group of schoolchildren claimed to have received visions of the Virgin Mary on a soccer field in the town of Kibeho, Rwanda.

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RESTORATION OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Beware of cults that throw "going away" parties.

On March 15, 2000, Credonia Mwerinde and Joseph Kibwetere, leaders of the cult of The Restoration of the Ten Commandments, hosted a great party for certain of their followers in the town of Kanungu, Uganda, roasting three bulls and providing seventy crates of soft drinks for their members' indulgence. Before they left for the celebration, many of the cultists told family members that they would not be coming back home, for after the party ended, they were going to the holy land. Later that evening, over one thousand members of the cult were either poisoned or otherwise murdered, doused with sulfuric acid, and set on fire.

The cult of The Restoration of the Ten Commandments had its origins in the late 1970s when a group of schoolchildren claimed to have received visions of the Virgin Mary on a soccer field in the town of Kibeho, Rwanda. A cult of the Virgin was formed, combining Roman Catholicism with aboriginal religious traditions, and spread to southwest Uganda. It was here, in 1984, that Credonia Mwerinde, a former store proprietor and brewer of banana beer, said that the Virgin Mary appeared to her for the first time.

In 1989 Credonia met with Joseph Kibwetere, a school administrator and politician who was active in the Catholic Church and informed him that she had been instructed to seek his aid in spreading the Virgin's message that people must restore value to the Ten Commandments if they were to escape damnation at the end of the world. According to Mwerinde's visions, Judgment Day was fast approaching. The world would end on December 31, 2000.

The message of Mary as delivered by Mwerinde and Kibwetere proved spellbinding to thousands of Ugandan people. The two were filled with the Holy Spirit and seemed to possess supernatural powers. Kibwetere was a charismatic preacher, and Mwerinde quickly established herself as the enforcer and disciplinarian of the cult. The rules for the group were outlined in the pamphlet *A Timely Message from Heaven* (1991), dictated by the Virgin Mary through Mwerinde, and were extremely strict. The cult members were forbidden to communicate other than through sign language. They must labor in the fields to grow their own food, and they must fast regularly. On Mondays and Fridays they were allowed only one meal. Soap was forbidden as a sinful indulgence.

There were also members of the Catholic clergy who were attracted to Mwerinde's channeled messages from the Virgin Mary, and who agreed that the church could use reforming. Father Paul Ikazire and Father Dominic Kataribabo joined the cult in protest to what they regarded as the church's failure to fulfill crucial obligations to its faithful. Soon membership in the cult had reached five thousand.

When January 1, 2000, dawned and the world was still in existence, dissension began to grow in the ranks of the cult. Because they had been commanded to sell their property and belongings and give all proceeds to the cult, many dissatisfied members began to grumble that they wanted their money back. Others began to doubt the validity of the direct discourses that Credonia claimed came directly from the Virgin Mary.

Early in March, Mwerinde and Kibwetere announced that there would be a glorious and holy celebration that had been ordered by Mary. After a sacred feast, those specially chosen cultists would be taken directly to heaven.

The bodies of Credonia Mwerinde and Joseph Kibwetere were not found among the charred remains of their faithful members. A witness in Kanungu told police that he had caught sight of the two departing from the festivities with suitcases in hand and wondered at the time why they would leave before their party had ended.

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ROCKEFELLER FAMILY'S ALIEN CONSPIRACY

If ETs did not want to land on the White House lawn, Laurance Rockefeller would have been happy to have greeted them at his country estate.

Who can doubt the global influence of the Rockefeller family? Beginning with the international corporate giant Standard Oil and spreading into the establishment of powerful supranational bodies such as the Trilateral Commission, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Bilderberg Society, the Rockefeller name is known through the world. Television commentator Bill Moyers concluded after he spent fifteen days with David Rockefeller that there are "just about a dozen or fifteen individuals" who make "day-to-day decisions that regulated the flow of capital and goods throughout the entire world." In the multinational fraternity of individuals who shape the global economy and manage the flow of its capital, Moyers said, the Rockefeller family was born to it. What some critics see as a vast international conspiracy, the Rockefellers consider "just another day's work."

Well before the turn of the twentieth century, Standard Oil was perceived as a vast monopoly that would stop at nothing, including blackmail, bribery, and bombings to secure its power. In the 1920s John D. Rockefeller, the founder of the dynasty, funded the Eugenics Records Office with its concepts of "racial hygiene" and breeding better humans. The "science" of the Eugenic Records Office influenced Adolf Hitler and provided scientific legitimacy for Nazi race laws.

The third son of John D. Rockefeller, Laurence Rockefeller was an influential financier who helped fund Intel and Apple Computer when those companies were starting out. He also was said to have funded UFO research.

In more recent years, the Rockefellers have established numerous philanthropic organizations in an effort to appear to be a dynasty of benevolent benefactors, rather than a clan of robber barons. Critics point out that the Rockefellers' motives, although perhaps born of guilt, still seem paternalistic and designed to serve the pet schemes of the world ruling class. When word began leaking out that Laurance Rockefeller was distributing substantial sums of money to certain UFO researchers and fringe foundations, a number of conspiracy theorists felt that the reason for his investment was not so much that he truly believed in aliens as that he wanted to cover all the possibilities: if extraterrestrials were to invade Earth, he wanted to ensure that the Rockefellers would be treated well. Other theorists contended that as a member of the Illuminati and the New World Order, Laurance was helping the citizens of Earth prepare to meet the Olympians, the masters from outer space.

According to well-substantiated rumors, Laurance Rockefeller contributed money and influence to prevent Harvard from censuring Dr. John Mack for his research on alien abduction. Rockefeller supported Mack's Center for Psychology and Social Change in Cambridge, Massachusetts, from 1993 to 1995.

Rockefeller also funded the Green Earth Foundation, headed by Terence McKenna, who traveled the globe collecting psychoactive plants, which he cultivated in Hawaii. McKenna theorized that aboriginal cultures have used these substances to induce a psychic link with extraterrestrials.

The Human Potential Foundation was primarily funded by Laurance Rockefeller, who encouraged its study of alternative religious and psychiatric/psychological paradigms. Similarly, Rockefeller cooperated closely with the BSW Foundation, headed by wealthy New Yorkers Sandra Wright Houghton and Bootsy Galbraith, who shared his belief that the ETs are benevolent and have come to help the human species ascend the evolutionary ladder more rapidly. Perhaps Rockefeller reasoned that those earthlings who believe that the aliens came from the stars with a noble mission would be chosen to be their ambassadors on Earth. On the other hand, some observers maintain that Rockefeller's principal motive in sponsoring UFO research was to force the release of secret government information on the entities who were visiting Earth from space.

Author/UFO contactee Whitley Strieber believes that Rockefeller was a "champion of disclosure of UFO secrets who had the courage to put his money" into that cause. Strieber said that Rockefeller told him that he believed that the kind of UFO abduction that Strieber had experienced was a very real phenomenon, but that he was "unsure of their purpose or origin."

Laurance Rockefeller died on July 11, 2004, at the age of ninety-three, after a brief illness. The surviving family members have not made any comments about their interest in UFOs or in aliens—benevolent or otherwise.

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ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH'S CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE

For centuries, the secret shame of sexual abuse of the most vulnerable members of their flocks by errant priests has been a dark cloud hanging over the Roman Catholic Church. Although it may be too late for thousands of victims to be able to feel any satisfaction, at last justice is being served.

On June 12, 2005, the *New York Times* ran an Associated Press story stating that sexual abuse by priests had cost the Roman Catholic Church in the United States more than $1 billion thus far in settlements and added that the cost would surely rise by millions of dollars because of hundreds of still-unsettled claims. According to the AP, at least $378 million had been spent in just three years after the conspiracy of silence was shattered in the Boston Archdiocese and spread like wildfire across the nation.

On October 12, 2005, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles released information from the confidential files of 126 clergy accused of sexual abuse and admitted that for more than seventy-five years they had moved accused priests to new assignments, ignoring parishioners' complaints. The documents were released as part of settlement discussions with lawyers for more than five hundred accusers in a civil lawsuit.

The Rev. Thomas Doyle, a canon lawyer who represented victims in their claims against the church, has said he tried to warn bishops as early as 1985 that abuse settlements could rise to over $1 billion. None of the church hierarchy believed him, and one archbishop assured Doyle that no one would ever sue the Catholic Church.

The fuse that ignited the firestorm of criticism against the church was the revelation that the Boston Archdiocese had shuffled Father John Geoghan from parish to parish, disregarding the many accusations that he was guilty of child abuse. In civil lawsuits, more than 130 individuals swore that Father Geoghan had sexually abused them as children during his thirty years as a priest in Boston-area parishes. When a judge ordered the release of archdiocesan files, the public was shocked to discover that dozens of priests accused of pedophilia had been shuttled to different unsuspecting parishes.

In civil lawsuits, more than 130 individuals swore that Father Geoghan had sexually abused them as children during his thirty years as a priest in Boston-area parishes.

In 2001 Geoghan was sentenced to nine to ten years in prison, and in September 2002 the archdiocese settled with eighty-six of his victims for $10 million. On August 24, 2003, Geoghan, sixty-eight, was strangled to death by a fellow inmate, thirty-seven-year-old Joseph L. Druce.

At a Vatican meeting in April 2002 the cardinals agreed on a "zero tolerance" policy toward priests found guilty of even one act of sexual abuse of a minor. Critics of the gathering at the Apostolic Palace stated their concern that the cardinals had declared that the scandal of priests preying on children was primarily a homosexual issue. By so doing, the critics said, the church was avoiding the real issue of a religious culture of secrecy and repression that had existed for far too long.

While cases of abuse in the U.S. received much of the early publicity, in subsequent years there have been numerous scandals involving priests accused of abuse in countries ranging from Australia to the Dominican Republic. An Irish government report released in 2009 charged Church officials with conspiring to hide cases of abuse. The signs of a widespread and decades-long conspiracy within the Church to hide abusers and silence accusers has continued. In just one week in 2018, it was revealed that the Church had been covering up for hundreds of priests in Illinois accused of abuse; the Jesuits had been hiding abusive priests in Spokane, Washington; and Bishop Alexander Salazar resigned after it was discovered that the Church had spent years trying to stifle accusations of abuse against him.

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ROSICRUCIANS

The most secret of secret societies, the Rosicrucians gained ancient wisdom that enabled them to create a science greatly in advance of their contemporaries in the fifteenth century.

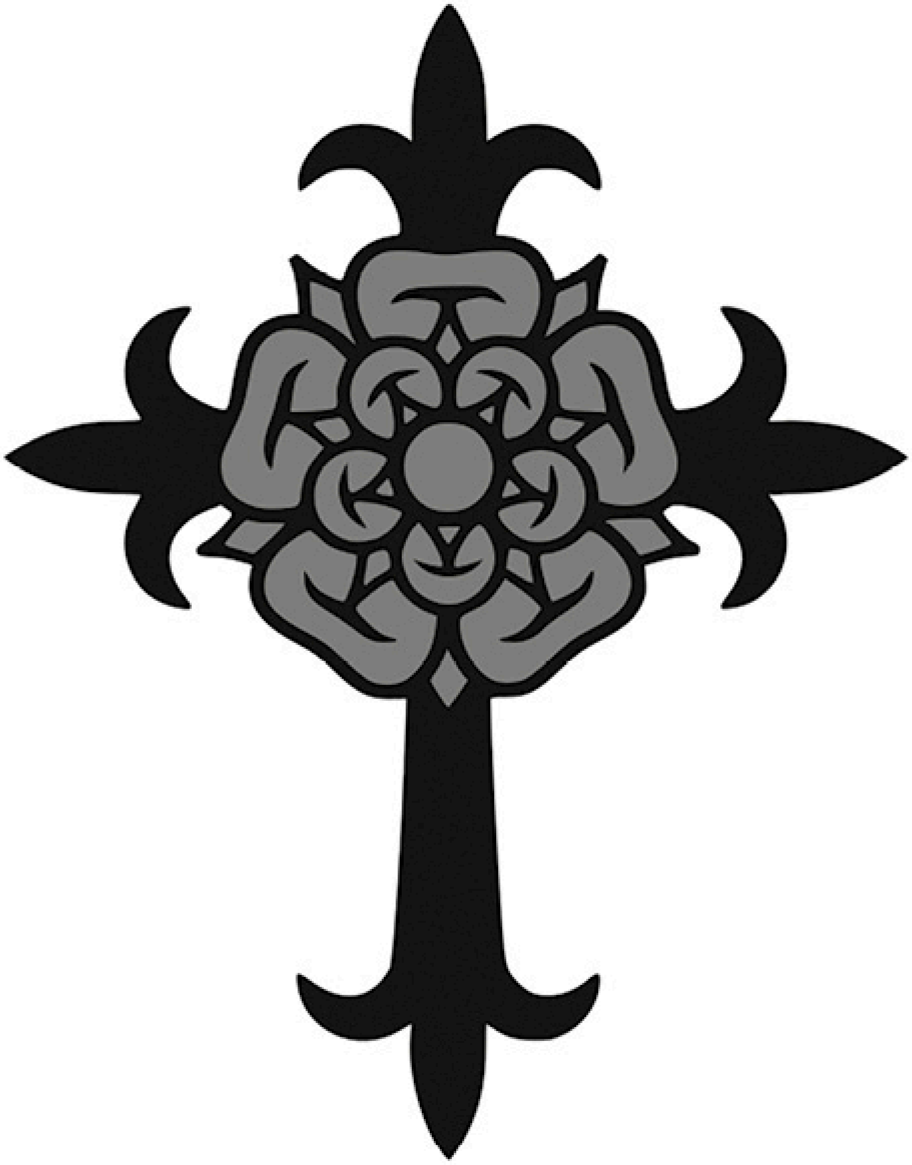
Since the seventeenth century, rumors have credited the Rosicrucians with accomplishing the transmutation of metals, possessing the means of prolonging life, having the knowledge to see and to hear what is occurring in distant places, and enjoying the ability to detect secret and hidden objects. It has been alleged that the scientific apparatus discovered in the tomb of Christian Rosenkreuz, founder of the Brethren of the Rosy Cross, or Rosicrucians, would be considered common laboratory equipment for the 1960s but impossible for the fifteenth century. The secret society has intrigued people for centuries and presented a challenge for historians and conspiracy theorists.

The Rosicrucians (from the Latin *Rosae Crucis* or "Rose Cross") state that the Illumined Father and Brother Christian Rosenkreuz was a brilliant magus who at the age of sixteen gained secret wisdom teachings from the sages of Arabia and the Holy Land. When he returned to Germany around 1450, Rosenkreuz became a recluse, for he could see that Europe was not yet ready for the complete reformation he so yearned to present to it. For one thing, he had acquired the fabled philosopher's stone, which enabled him to produce all the gold and precious gems necessary to allow him to build a house where he could live peacefully and well. To share the power of the legendary stone of transmutation with the unwise, the worldly, and the greedy would be disastrous.

Quietly, Rosenkreuz accepted only a handful of students to whom he imparted the knowledge that he had acquired and the connections that he had made with the mystery schools and the esoteric teachings of great masters. Eventually there came to be eight brothers, counting Rosenkreuz himself. They swore to uphold the following precepts:

1. They would not profess any creed but the goal of healing the sick without reward.
2. They would affect no particular style of clothing.
3. They would meet once each year in the House of the Sainted Spirit.
4. Each brother would carefully choose his own successor.
5. The letters *R.C.* would serve as their only seal and character.
6. The brotherhood would remain secret for a hundred years.

Although Rosenkreuz was buried in secret when he died in 1484 at the age of 106, one of the brothers happened by chance to discover his burial chamber some years later and read, inscribed above the entrance, the promise that Rosenkreuz would return in 126 years. The discovery of the Illumined Father's prediction inspired the surviving brothers to work in earnest to spread his teachings throughout the world.



The Rose Cross symbol used by the Rosicrucians.

Between 1604 and 1616, the secret brotherhood released three manifestos in Germany. The pamphlets called upon the educated and influential to unite to bring about a reformation of the educational, moral, and scientific establishments of Europe. The manifestos also shared some startling assertions, among them:

1. The end of the world was near, but those who had become enlightened by the new reformation would be initiated into a higher consciousness.
2. New stars that had appeared in the constellations of Cygnus and Serpentarius predicted the destruction of the Roman Catholic Church.
3. The Illumined Father Christian Rosenkreuz had divined the secret code that God placed in the universe in the beginning of time.
4. The transmutation of base metals into gold and precious gems is a natural miracle that has been revealed to such magi as Christian Rosenkreuz.

5. The Rosicrucian Fellowship has wealth to distribute, but it does not wish a single coin from anyone.

The manifestos created great excitement in the Europe of the early 1600s. Royalty, common folk, merchants, mystics, alchemists—all clamored for more information about the mysterious secret brotherhood. Thousands of people wanted to become Rosicrucians, but no one knew where any of their lodges were. Desperate individuals placed letters of application to the fraternity in public places where they hoped the Rosicrucians might find them.

It wasn't long before unscrupulous opportunists began posing as members of the secret fraternity. But when the charlatans could not produce mounds of gold upon demand, they were either imprisoned or pummeled. Nor had too much time passed before word spread among the church hierarchies that the Rosicrucians were Satanists who sought only to delude Europe into sin. In spite of entreaties, threats, and demands, no Rosicrucian stepped forward to identify himself, and the society remained secret—the most secret of all secret societies.

Some suspected that many of the alleged writings attributed to "Christian Rosenkreuz" were actually works of the great Francis Bacon.

Some suspected that many of the alleged writings attributed to "Christian Rosenkreuz" were actually works of the great Francis Bacon. His unfinished manuscript *The New Atlantis* (1627) describes an earthly utopian paradise and a secret brotherhood who wear the Rose Cross on their turbans, who heal people without charge, and who meet yearly in their temple. The philosopher Rene Descartes was once nearly arrested on the accusation that he was a member of the secret society, but he successfully argued to his accusers that whereas the Rosicrucians were said to be invisible, he, it was plain to see, was not.

Valentine Andreae or Andreas was a Lutheran pastor who idealized Martin Luther, the guiding force behind the Protestant Reformation, and Christian Rosenkreuz. Andreae was a brilliant scholar who as a youth had traveled widely throughout Europe and had risen in the clerical ranks to become a chaplain at the Court of Württemberg, Germany. Embittered by the misery that had followed the Thirty Years' War, he became an apologist for the Rosicrucians and wrote *The Chemical Wedding of Christian Rosenkreuz* (1616), an allegorical "autobiography" of Rosenkreuz. Upon the book's initial publication, many scholars, aware that Rosenkreuz had been dead for 130 years, speculated that his spirit had dictated the work. Later academic debates swirled around the questions of whether Andreae and Rosenkreuz were the same person and whether the Fraternity of the Rosy Cross was actually founded in the seventeenth century, rather than the fifteenth. Since the seal of the Rosicrucians, the seal of Martin Luther, and the crest of the Andreae family all bear the image of the cross and the rose, understandable confusion has arisen from time to time regarding the "autobiography."

Andreae stated that the work was his own and described it as an allegorical novel written in tribute to Rosenkreuz, as well as a symbolic depiction of the science of alchemy and hermetic magic. The royal wedding to which the hero Rosenkreuz is invited is in reality the alchemical process itself, in which the female and male principles are joined together. As the novel continues, the vast arcana of alchemical truths is represented by various animals, mythological beings, and human personalities.

According to some scholars, the Rosicrucians came to America in 1694 as the German Pietists and settled in Philadelphia. Since then, rumors have abounded about their continued existence as another of the secret societies which manipulates the world behind the scenes.

While the true identity of the original Rosicrucians may never be known and scholars may never be certain that such a man as Christian Rosenkreuz ever really existed, the society's manifestos contained concepts pertaining to individual freedom, the separation of church and state, and the quest to determine humankind's true place in the universe that became ideals of the Enlightenment and have carried over into modern times.

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ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO, UFO CRASH

The air force press release of July 8, 1947, that announced the retrieval of a crashed flying saucer outside of Roswell, New Mexico, has become the Mother of All UFO Conspiracies.

The alleged UFO crash outside of Roswell, New Mexico, on the night of July 2, 1947, is the one event that spawned nearly every UFO conspiracy theory extant today.

Here is what generations of UFO researchers contend happened at Roswell:

1. An extraterrestrial craft developed mechanical problems and crashed on a ranch located about sixty miles north of Roswell.

Major Jesse Marcel—winner of five air combat medals in World War II, intelligence officer for the 509th Bomber Group, a top-security, handpicked unit—was ordered to go to the site and salvage the remains of the unknown aircraft reported by Mac Brazel, a rancher who had discovered the debris on his land.

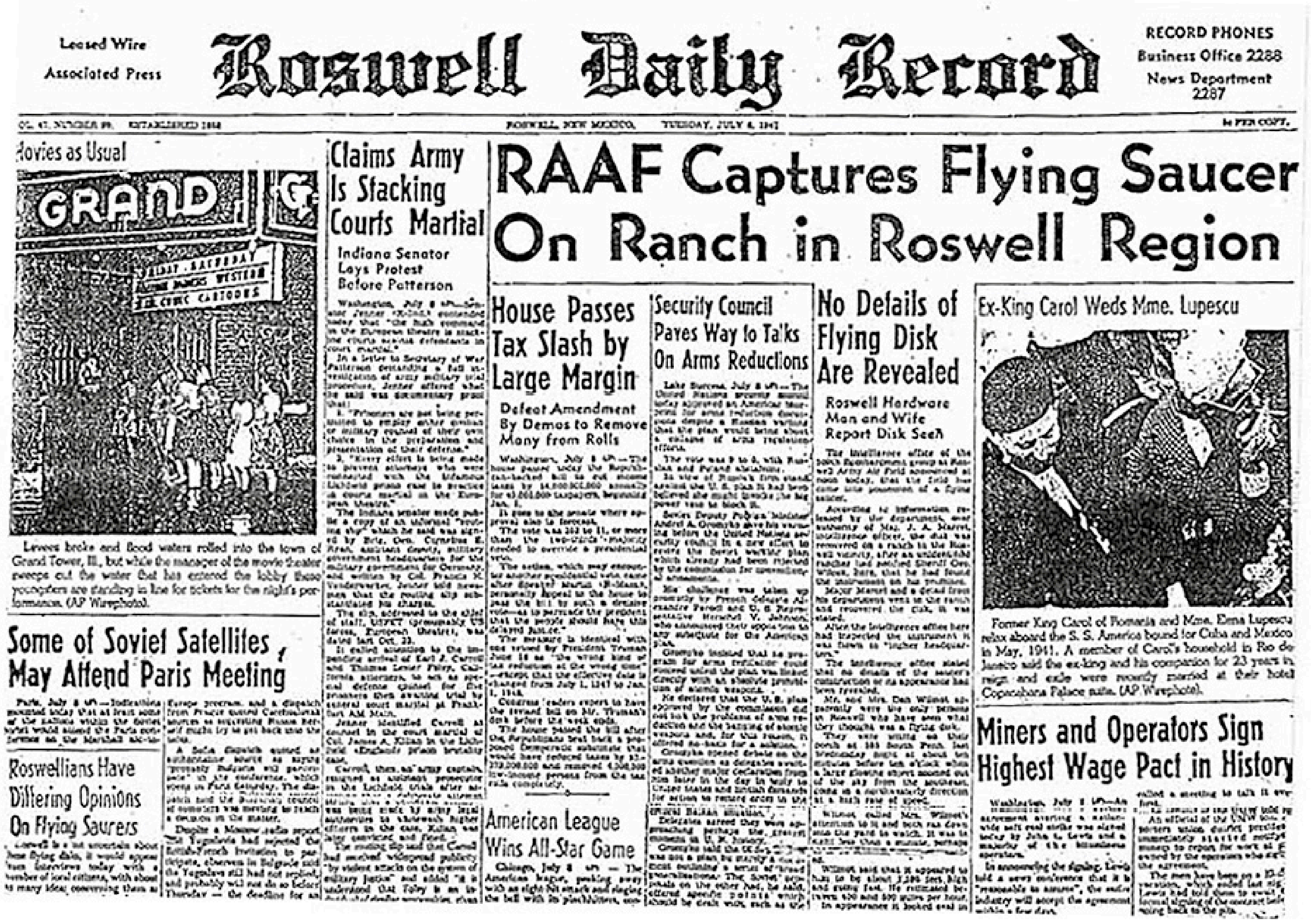
In 1980 Marcel, long retired, recalled that he and his men found wreckage from the UFO scattered throughout the area of the crash. He admitted that he had no idea exactly what he and his men were supposed to retrieve—and, forty years later, he still didn't know.

The strange, weightless material discovered by the 509th Bomber Group was difficult to describe. The pieces varied in length from four or five inches to three or four feet. Some fragments had markings that resembled hieroglyphics. Although the material seemed to be unbreakable, the military investigators thought that it looked more like wood than metal. Marcel put his cigarette lighter to one of the rectangular fragments, but it would not burn. He and his crew brought as many pieces of the crashed UFO back to Roswell Army Air Base as they could gather. Lewis Rickert, who in 1947 was a master sergeant and counterintelligence agent stationed at the airfield, was among the military personnel present at the crash site. In 1994 he recalled that the jagged, flexible fragments were no more than eight or ten inches long and six or seven inches wide and they could not be broken.

On July 8, 1947, Walter Haut, the public affairs officer at Roswell Army Air Base, sent out a release announcing that the military had "captured" a flying saucer. The announcement was transmitted to thirty U.S. afternoon newspapers that same day, and the entire nation was electrified as word spread that a military team had actually recovered debris from the crash of one of those mysterious airborne discs that people had seen buzzing around the country ever since a civilian pilot named Kenneth Arnold claimed to have had an encounter with "flying saucers" near Mount Rainier, in Washington State, on June 24.

The very next day, July 9, the press office at the airfield released a correction of its previous story. It had not been the debris of a flying saucer that had been recovered, after all. It was nothing but the remains of a downed weather balloon. Also on July 9, the *Roswell Daily Record* carried the story of Mac Brazel, the rancher who had found the "saucer," who said that he was sorry that he had told anyone about the crashed junk in the first place.

In the 1980s Kevin Randle, a former captain in U.S. Air Force Intelligence, together with Don Schmitt, director of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, found new evidence indicating that the crash actually occurred on July 4, 1947, rather than July 2, as is commonly stated. It was on July 5, according to Schmitt and Randle, that Mac Brazel visited Sheriff George Wilcox and informed him of the peculiar discovery he had made near his ranch the day before. The military unit under the command of Major Marcel retrieved the crash debris and alien bodies on July 5. On July 8, Walter Haut issued the press release stating that the army had captured a flying saucer. Almost immediately thereafter, the official cover story of a collapsed weather balloon failing to earth in the desert was heavily promoted by the military.



Leased Wire
Associated Press

Roswell Daily Record

RECORD PHONES
Business Office 2288
News Department
2287

ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO, TUESDAY, JULY 8, 1947

RAAF Captures Flying Saucer On Ranch in Roswell Region

Movies as Usual

Levees broke and flood waters rolled into the town of Grand Tower, Ill., but while the manager of the movie theater sweeps out the water that has entered the lobby these youngsters are standing in line for tickets for the night's performance. (AP Wirephoto).

Claims Army Is Stacking Courts Martial

Indiana Senator Lays Protest Before Patterson

House Passes Tax Slash by Large Margin

Defeat Amendment By Demos to Remove Many from Rolls

Security Council Paves Way to Talks On Arms Reductions

No Details of Flying Disk Are Revealed

Roswell Hardware Man and Wife Report Disk Seen

Ex-King Carol Weds Mme. Lupescu

Former King Carol of Romania and Mme. Elena Lupescu relax aboard the S. S. America bound for Cuba and Mexico in May, 1941. A member of Carol's household in Rio de Janeiro said the ex-king and his companion for 23 years in reign and exile were recently married at their hotel Copacabana Palace suite. (AP Wirephoto).

Some of Soviet Satellites May Attend Paris Meeting

Roswellians Have Differing Opinions On Flying Saucers

American League Wins All-Star Game

Miners and Operators Sign Highest Wage Pact in History

The July 9, 1947, issue of the Roswell Daily Record breaks the news of an incredible extraterrestrial find.

2. Numerous civilians who claimed to have arrived at the crash site remembered seeing the corpses of small, hairless beings with large heads and round, oddly spaced eyes.

Barney Barnett, a civil engineer employed by the federal government, said that he had seen alien bodies on the ground and inside the wrecked spaceship. He described them as small, hairless beings with large heads and round, oddly spaced eyes. Barnett stated that a military unit arrived on the scene and an officer ordered him off the site with the stern admonition that it was his patriotic duty to remain silent about what he had seen.

3. The press officer Walter Haut was given direct orders by his base commander, Col. William Blanchard, to prepare the official press release refuting the flying saucer account. The cover story of the weather balloon initiated the military/government conspiracy to keep the truth of a crashed extraterrestrial UFO from the public.

The nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman contends that Major Marcel was very familiar with all kinds of weather and military balloons and would not have mistaken such ordinary debris for that of a downed alien spaceship. Nor would any of the military personnel have mistaken alien bodies for diminutive human remains. After the wreckage was properly identified as extraterrestrial in nature, Friedman claims, the official cover-up was instigated at both the Roswell base and the headquarters of the Eighth Air Force in Fort Worth, Texas, by the Eighth

Air Force's commandant, Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey, on direct orders from Gen. Clement McMullen at Strategic Air Command headquarters in Washington, D.C.

4. At least one of the alien crew survived the crash and was shipped, along with the debris of the vehicle, to Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio, thus becoming a resident of the infamous "Hanger 18" at Wright-Patterson.

Most eyewitness accounts speak of five alien bodies found at the impact site and state that four corpses were transported to Wright Field and the fifth to Lowry Field, Denver, to the air force mortuary service. Numerous secondary accounts of the incident assert that one of the UFOnauts survived the crash and was still alive when the military arrived on the scene. Some UFO researchers maintain that circa 1986 the alien being was still alive and well treated as a guest of the air force at what is now Wright-Patterson Air Base.

Don Schmitt and Kevin Randle, in their book *UFO Crash at Roswell*, include an interview with Brig. Gen. Arthur Exon, who told them that, in addition to debris from the wreckage, four tiny alien cadavers were flown to Wright Field.

5. A number of civilians were threatened by the military to keep their mouths shut about what really occurred at Roswell.

During an interview with a granddaughter of Sheriff George Wilcox in March 1991, Schmitt and Randle were told that the sheriff saw the debris of a UFO and "little space beings." Later, military men "who were not kidding" visited Wilcox and his wife and warned them that they would be killed if they ever told anyone what he saw at the crash site. Not only would they be murdered, but their children and grandchildren would also be eliminated.

Later, military men … visited Wilcox and his wife and warned them that they would be killed if they ever told anyone what he saw at the crash site. Not only would they be murdered, but their children and grandchildren would also be eliminated.

Randle and Schmitt located a Ms. Frankie Rowe, who had been twelve years old at the time of the mysterious occurrences outside Roswell. Her father, a lieutenant with the fire department, told his family at dinner on the night of the UFO crash that he had seen the remains of what he had at first believed to be an airplane. He also saw two little bodies in body bags and a third alien entity walking around in a daze. He described the beings as about the size of a ten-year-old child. Later, a group of military men arrived at the house and made it clear that if they ever talked about the incident again, the entire family would be taken out in the desert and "no one would ever find us again."

In the November 1994 issue of *American Funeral Director*, Glenn Dennis recalled the telephone conversation that he had with the mortuary officer at Roswell Army Air Base on Tuesday, July 8, 1947, when he was asked if he could provide three- or four-foot-long hermetically sealed caskets. A short time later Dennis was on the base in his capacity as an ambulance driver, transporting an injured airman to the base hospital. As he drove past two field ambulances, he looked into their open back ends and saw an enormous amount of a silvery metallic material, two chunks of which were curved at the bottom in the manner of a canoe. He also noticed that the pieces were covered with odd markings, which he assumed were some kind of hieroglyphs.

Dennis stated in the article that he was a familiar figure at the air base, even accepted as an honorary member of its officers club. On this occasion, however, two MPs grabbed him and brought him to a red-haired officer who warned him that somebody would be picking his bones out of the sand if he ever shot his mouth off about seeing the peculiar material. As the MPs were escorting Dennis back to his ambulance, they met a female nurse in the hallway. The nurse, with whom he was well acquainted, held a towel over the lower part of her face, and Dennis at first thought that she had been crying. Alarmed by his presence, she told him to leave at once before he was shot. Dennis indicated his two-man armed escort and said that he was leaving the base. As he was being ushered rudely down the hall, Dennis saw two men who also had towels over their noses and mouths.

The next day, the nurse arranged to meet Dennis at the officers club. There she told him that a flying saucer had crashed in the desert and the army had recovered bodies of three dead aliens. Until the bodies were frozen, she said, their smell had nauseated the medical staff. Dennis said that the nurse became extremely emotional while describing smallish beings with large heads and big eyes. He never saw her again. He was informed that she had been transferred to a base in England. Later, he was told that she had been killed in an airplane crash.

Other Roswell conspiracy theories with slightly different interpretations of the event were not long in surfacing:

6. An extraterrestrial craft did crash at Roswell in 1947, and through reverse engineering of the advanced alien technology at secret air bases such as Area 51, our scientists and engineers have accomplished aeronautical breakthroughs decades ahead of when we might have expected them.

Artifacts found with the crashed extraterrestrial space vehicle were discreetly farmed out to major U.S. corporations that were able to back-engineer many technological advances, to the benefit of all world citizens.

7. The alien kept alive in Hangar 18 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base has been acting as a liaison between a secret agency within the government and the extraterrestrials, actually exchanging humans for advanced technical data. In secret underground military and commercial facilities, aliens have been seen working side by side with earthling scientists and engineers developing additional technological advances derived from extraterrestrial technology.

Witnesses to such activity report subterranean laboratories where the extraterrestrials seek to create part-alien, part-human beings. Others tell horror stories of having observed “large vats with pale meat being agitated in solutions” and large test tubes “with humans in them.”

On June 24, 1997, the Pentagon held a special briefing conducted by the U.S. Air Force—timed to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of Kenneth Arnold’s 1947 sighting of flying saucers—in order to release the document entitled *The Roswell Report: Case Closed*. This publication, stated Col. John Haynes, would be the air force's final word concerning fifty years of accusations that the government was hiding evidence of extraterrestrial visitation.

The debris found at the crash site outside of Roswell was from a Project Mogul balloon, a top-secret intelligence-gathering device, hence the cover-up was for purposes of national security. The alleged bodies seen around the crash site were not those of extraterrestrial beings—or of any living beings. They were actually dummies, roughly the size of humans, that were used in experiments with high-altitude parachutes that began in 1953. After the experimental drops, air force personnel would retrieve the simulated human forms, and it must have been at certain of these recovery missions that folks around Roswell got the idea that they saw military types picking up "alien" bodies.

INTERNATIONAL
UFO MUSEUM
RESEARCH CENTER
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO
SPEED LIMIT 25
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The International UFO Museum & Research Center in Roswell is a nonprofit organization dedicated to collecting and preserving materials about the Roswell Incident. The museum also regularly hosts guest speakers.

For those who wondered how witnesses could confuse dummies dropped over the desert near Roswell in 1953 with humanoid corpses scattered near a specific crash site in 1947, Colonel Haynes explained this confusion as a manifestation of the mental phenomenon of "time compression," wherein the memory melds events separated by many years into "compressed" segments of time. That is, civilians who witnessed the crash site of a weather balloon in 1947 and, six years later, saw air force personnel retrieving crash dummies dropped from the skies recall the two events as one in their compressed memories. With all the controversy regarding flying saucers and aliens, the witnesses remember the balloon fragments and the dummies as the debris from a crashed spacecraft and the corpses of its extraterrestrial crew.

On October 25, 1998, an interview in the London newspaper *The People* with Dr. Edgar Mitchell, the sixth person to walk on the moon, startled UFO buffs and skeptics alike. Without hesitation, the former astronaut proclaimed, "Make no mistake, Roswell happened. I've seen secret files which show the government knew about it, but decided not to tell the public." Mitchell explained that because of his being a scientist and a former astronaut, military people with access to top-secret files were more willing to speak with him than to civilian researchers with shaky credentials. Although he had begun his inquiries as a cynic, he said, he became convinced of the existence of aliens after speaking with "the military old-timers" who had been in service at the time of Roswell. He added that the more government documentation he was told about, the more convinced he became.

Mitchell stated that he was shocked to learn the extent to which the UFO mystery had been covered up by the governments of the world, but in defense of such actions, he said that there were sound security reasons for not informing the general public of the truth about Roswell: "Quite simply, we wouldn't have known how to deal with the technology of intelligent beings advanced enough to send a craft to Earth. The world would have panicked if we'd know aliens were visiting us." He expressed his belief that those individuals who were in possession of top-secret documentation of alien visitors would soon begin to come forward and that full disclosures would be made within three or four years.

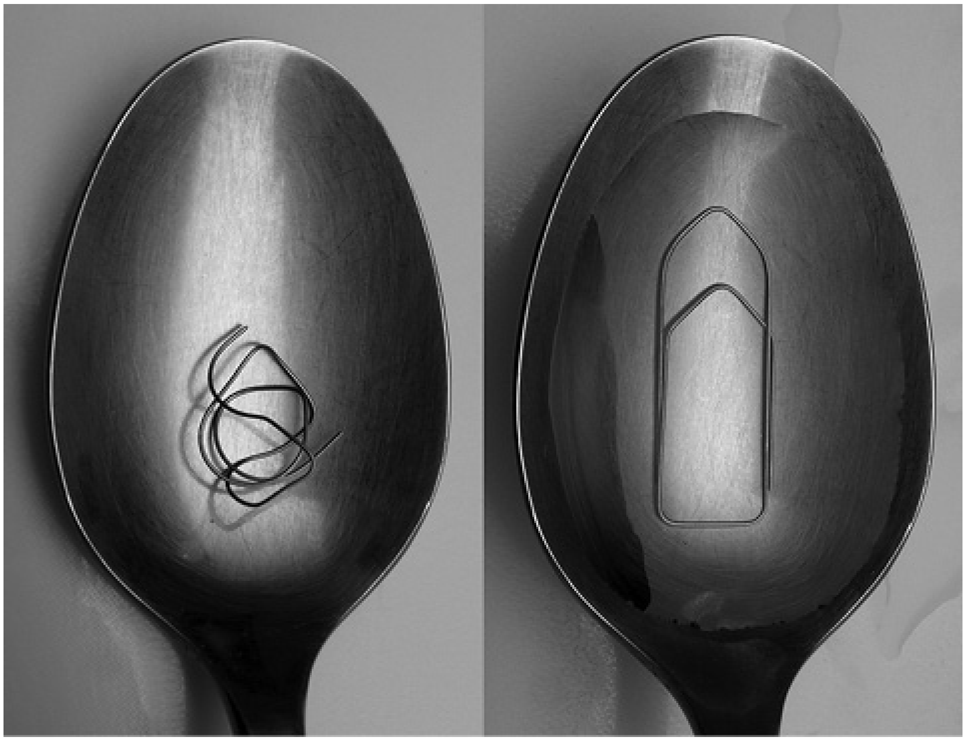
A July 1997 CNN/Time poll taken to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the enigmatic event at Roswell indicated that 80 percent of the American public believes the government is hiding information about the UFO mystery. In addition, 54 percent of those surveyed are certain that life exists outside of Earth; 35 percent expect extraterrestrial beings to appear "somewhat" human; 64 percent are convinced that alien life forms have contacted humans; and 37 percent are concerned that ETs are abducting humans.

8. Does Nitinol, the Memory Metal, Have an Extraterrestrial Origin?

In their book *UFO Crash at Roswell* (1991), Kevin Randle and Don Schmitt interviewed Mrs. Frankie Rowe, whose father was a lieutenant with the Roswell fire department who had witnessed the debris of "some kind of ship" and tiny corpses in body bags. Frankie, who was twelve at the time, happened to be visiting her father at the fire station when a New Mexico state police officer came in with a strange piece of metal that he claimed he had picked up from the UFO crash site when no one was looking. To the astonishment of the firemen, the trooper tossed the object onto a table where it "unfolded itself in fluid motion," looking not unlike water or liquid mercury. Each of the firefighters had their turn examining the alien metal and they all observed that it could not be cut, burned, or made to remain in any shape other than its original form. A few days later, the witnesses were warned by a group of military men that they must never talk to anyone about the fragment that the state police officer had removed from the UFO crash site.

In 1978, Jesse Marcel gave a filmed interview from his home in Houma, Louisiana, in which he spoke about handling the "memory metal" back in 1947. He, too, described it as a solid, metallic substance that could be crumpled into a ball, but always returned to its original shape.

In 1997, Lt. Col. Philip J. Corso admitted in his *Day after Roswell* that he had access to certain recovered materials from the Roswell UFO crash of 1947. Among this cache of materials was the "morph metal," which Lt. Col. Corso believed was of extraterrestrial origin.



Nitinol is not that mysterious. It is a nickel–titanium alloy that does, indeed, have interesting elastic properties. The nitinol paperclip at left was bent and then, at right, placed in hot water to recover its shape.

The mysterious fragments of metal were assigned to the Battelle Memorial Institute, a top-secret defense contractor with state-of-the-art experimental laboratories and analysis facilities in Columbia, Ohio. It was here that the "memory metal" was named nitinol and analyzed as a fusion made from combining titanium and nickel at an extremely high heat. Scientists have declared nitinol so malleable that it might be capable of forming a self-mending aircraft hull that would virtually "heal" itself if breached.

In 2003, when researcher Nick Redfern was gathering material for *Body Snatchers in the Desert* (2005) he met an elderly man that he dubbed "the Colonel," who claimed an extensive background with various U.S. intelligence agencies. The Colonel told Redfern that the U.S. Army's Foreign Technology Division had hatched the story of nitinol being created from extraterrestrial debris found at Roswell to ensnare a suspected Soviet spy. In order to make the story completely convincing to the Soviets, the spy was given a limited amount of research into nitinol. The trap worked, the colonel said, but as a consequence, rumors spread within elements of the FTD that nitinol had actually been created from an extraterrestrial source.

After his interviews with the colonel, Redfern was left with two possibilities: 1) The Nitinol-Roswell connection grew out of a plot to trap a communist sympathizer and his Soviet ally; or 2) the Colonel was attempting to deflect the nitinol-Roswell connection by placing the story in a "wholly down to-earth-context, rather than one involving literal aliens and a crashed UFO."

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RUBY RIDGE

For eighteen months, federal marshals laid siege to a family of five, their friend, and the family dog, who were holed up in a cabin.

In 1983 Randall "Randy" Weaver, a former Green Beret, his wife, Vicki, and their three children decided to move from Iowa to greater seclusion in the rugged panhandle country of northern Idaho. The Weavers, though not belonging to any particular group, believed in separatism and the apocalyptic prophecies that advised the faithful that the End-Times were very near. True to the survivalist spirit, the Weavers bought a large acreage on Ruby Ridge, built their own home, and managed to make a living by selling firewood.

In *The Federal Siege at Ruby Ridge: In Our Own Words*, written by Randy Weaver, his daughter, Sara, and Bill Henry, Weaver claims that federal agents saw him as someone who could give them information on some of the white-supremacist and neo-Nazi groups in Idaho. When he failed to comply with their requests, he was indicted in 1992 for selling two illegal sawed-off shotguns to an FBI informant. Weaver and his lawyers protested that he was set up in an elaborate entrapment scheme. Fearing that he was about to suffer consequences of an uncooperative attitude, Weaver didn't appear in court for his trial. When he was indicted on a second count, he retreated to his stronghold in Ruby Ridge.

For the next eighteen months, the Weavers were under close surveillance by the federal marshals who ringed the Ruby Ridge property, hoping that Randy would come out so they could arrest him. According to orders issued by the U.S. attorney's office in Boise, the federal agents were to apprehend Weaver only in a peaceable, nonviolent manner, which translated to arresting him if he left the stronghold and surrendered.

On August 21, 1992, the standoff came to a bloody halt. In the marshals' account, three officers armed with M-16s were reconnoitering the Ruby Ridge property when Kevin Harris, twenty-five, who was living with the Weavers, and the Weavers' fourteen-year-old son, Samuel, began chasing them and shooting at them. A brief firefight broke out that left Marshal William Degan, Samuel Weaver, and the Weavers' dog dead. In his testimony, Harris stated that he witnessed the federal agents' killing of Samuel and the dog and began firing at the marshals in self-defense, killing Degan.

After the initial gun battle, more than two hundred law-enforcement officers, led by the FBI, surrounded the Weavers' cabin.

After the initial gun battle, more than two hundred law-enforcement officers, led by the FBI, surrounded the Weavers' cabin. On August 22, the day after Samuel Weaver and Marshal Degan were killed, an FBI sniper, Lon Horiuchi, got off two rounds, instantly killing Vicki Weaver and seriously wounding Randy. For the next ten days Weaver, his three daughters, and Harris continued to resist. The FBI brought in Special Forces hero James "Bo" Gritz to negotiate with the beleaguered Weavers, and Harris decided to surrender. Weaver and his daughters waited one more day before waving the white flag.

At their trial in July 1993 one of the Weavers' attorneys, Gerry Spence, spoke critically of the FBI's handling of the engagement. Advising the jury that the incident at Ruby Ridge was just like Waco, Spence said that initially the marshals were instructed to keep their distance from the Weavers—to keep them under surveillance but have no contact with them. After several months of maintaining a stakeout, the federal agents began to work at provoking a confrontation, and the Weavers and Harris acted in self-defense.

The prosecution attempted to counter by claiming that Harris had fired first when he killed Degan. The defense produced ballistic evidence that Degan had fired seven rounds before he was shot.

The federal government re-created the death of Vicki Weaver and said that the sniper had caught only a glimpse of someone moving behind a curtain and had accidentally killed her. Earlier in the trial, however, Horiuchi, the sniper, testified that he was considered an accurate shot at two hundred yards.

The jury found Weaver innocent of all serious charges, convicting him only on the original charge of selling illegal firearms. Harris was also found innocent on the grounds of self-defense.

Weaver returned to Iowa and began to rebuild his life. He sold his book at gun shows around the country and advised those who chat with him to "keep your powder dry."

In the years that followed, "Ruby Ridge" became a rallying cry for anti-government activists around the country, often invoked in conjunction with the standoff at Waco, which ended only a few months after the siege of the Weavers came to its violent end. Conspiracy theorists see in both cases proof of an authoritarian government willing to use any means to crush dissent and also a very good reason to take up arms themselves in response.

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SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING

The families of the children murdered in the Sandy Hook school shooting discovered that some conspiracy theorists believed that their tragedy was invented.

The events of December 14, 2012, in Newton, Connecticut, are some of the most horrific that the world has ever seen. What followed was almost worse.

That day, 20-year-old Adam Lanza shot and killed his mother and then destroyed his computer's hard drive; this was a sign that he knew that police would be coming to search his mother's home after he carried out his plan. He drove to Sandy Hook Elementary School, which he had once attended, walked inside with several weapons (including a shotgun and an AR-15 assault rifle), and began shooting. In just a few minutes, Lanza had killed 20 children and six adults. He shot himself dead before police reached the school.

Part of the aftermath was familiar. National mourning. Some politicians (including President Barack Obama) calling for increased gun control. A lack of action. But unlike other school shootings that had by this point become far more common in the United States, this one was followed by a new kind of reaction.

Within days, bloggers were suggesting that the Sandy Hook shootings had not only been artificially staged but had been a full-dress production. Conspiracists had suggested before that mass shootings may have been inside jobs created to serve a purpose (strike fear into people, stoke the public appetite for gun control). But this appears to have been the first time that the term "crisis actors" was utilized. ("Crisis actors" is a term for people who play certain roles during simulated emergency drills in order to increase the realism.) In the case of Sandy Hook, some conspiracy theorists thought that everybody seen in the television footage, children and adults, were paid actors performing a script as part of a plot to scare the populace into accepting gun control or other aspects of imagined New World Order authoritarianism.

After this narrative began gaining traction, larger-scale conspiracy theorists like Alex Jones began amplifying it. Some of their followers then began targeting the families of the dead, both on social media and in real life. One conspiracist published a book titled *Nobody Died At Sandy Hook*. Jones was later found liable for defamation after calling the shooting a "giant hoax."

However, the theory continued. After 17 people were killed in a mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and some of the survivors turned to gun-control activism, conspiracists saw another "false flag." They attacked the survivors, claiming they were crisis actors and had staged the attack.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
ANGELS

A makeshift memorial was set up near Sandy Hook Elementary shortly after the tragic shooting. Incredibly, some people have declared the whole thing was staged.

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SATANIC CULTS

While there have long been people who worship the devil, some believe that organized cults of devil-worship are on the rise, as is the number of their victims.

Although Satanism and witchcraft have been synonymous in the popular mind for many centuries, they constitute two vastly divergent philosophies and metaphysical systems. Generally speaking, Witchcraft, or the Old Religion, has its origins in pre-modern nature worship and has no devil or Satan in its cosmology. While some traditional witches seek to control the forces of nature and elemental forces in both the seen and unseen worlds, others are contented to work with herbs and healing. True Satanism—although manifesting in a multitude of forms and expressions and having also originated in an ancient worship of a pre–Judeo-Christian god—is today essentially a corruption of both the nature worship of witchcraft and formal Christian worship, especially the rites of the Roman Catholic Church.

Some scholars argue that in a very real sense, the church created the kind of Satanism it fears through the Inquisition, which made an industry out of hunting, persecuting, torturing, and killing practitioners of witchcraft who were condemned for worshipping the devil. Then, in the sixteenth century, a decadent aristocracy, weary of the severity of conventional mortality legislated by the church, perversely began to adapt witchcraft rituals to suit their own sexual fantasies. Unrestrained immorality was the order of the day as Parisians followed the hedonistic example of their Sun King, Louis XIV. The ancient rituals followed by serf and peasant were converted into an obscene rendering of the rites of traditional paganism combined the ritualistic aspects of Christian worship. Lords and ladies began to pray in earnest to Holy Satan to grant them high office and wealth.

Contemporary Satanism experienced its rebirth on Walpurgisnacht (May 1) 1966, when Anton Szandor LaVey brought into being San Francisco’s Church of Satan. Generally speaking, the kind of Satanism championed by LaVey preaches indulgence in personal pleasure, and it has never pretended to be other than a counterculture alternative to the civil and religious establishments and a relentless foe of conventional morality.

In the 1980s and ’90s a widespread fear swept across the United States that there were dozens of secret satanic cults engaging in ritual abuse and sacrificing hundreds of babies, children, and adults.

In the 1980s and ’90s a widespread fear swept across the United States that there were dozens of secret satanic cults engaging in ritual abuse and sacrificing hundreds of babies, children, and adults. Television and radio talk shows featured individuals who claimed to be former members of such demonic cults and those who had allegedly recovered memories of satanic abuse. For a time, certain communities developed a near-hysteria and a fear of Satanists that recalled the days of the Salem witchcraft trials.

Rumors continue that each year hundreds of homicides are satanically or ritually inspired, but it has never been proved by federal, state, or local law enforcement that there exists an organized satanic movement responsible for these deaths. There have been serial killers who claimed to be Satanists, but in each of these cases police investigations revealed that the murderers were not actually members of any organized satanic religious group. Even such a high-profile "devil worshipper" as Richard Ramirez, the infamous "Night Stalker" of Los Angeles, who committed a series of brutal nighttime killings, robberies, and sexual attacks, was never found to be a member of any formal satanic group.

Contrary to the fears of conservative Christians, Satanism as an actual religion is composed of a few small groups, which according to census figures in the United States and Canada probably number fewer than ten thousand members. Such religious sects as Santeria, Wicca, Voodoo, and various neopagan groups are regularly—and incorrectly—identified as Satanic. It has been suggested that the statistics often quoted by Christian evangelists, warning of millions of Satan worshippers, quite likely consider all non-Christian religions as satanic, including Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam.

However, there are many kinds of free-form Satanism, ranging from those merely symptomatic of sexual unrest and moral rebellion among young people to those of mentally unbalanced serial killers who murder and sacrifice their victims to their own perverse concept of satanic evil. There are also individuals, primarily teenagers and young adults, who for a time dabble in the occult, ceremonial magic, and other freelance rituals and who may declare themselves Satanists. Their numbers are difficult to assess with any accuracy, for they are essentially faddists, generally inspired by a current motion picture or television series that popularizes Satanism or witchcraft. Some of these satanic dabblers may go so far as to sacrifice a small animal and spray-paint satanic symbols on houses and sidewalks, but their commitment to a lifestyle dominated by dedication to Satan soon dissipates.

The following signs and symbols are among the most common expressions of Satanism, both among individual Satanists and those self-proclaimed "high priests and priestesses" who have established covens (traditionally having thirteen or fewer members):

The Pentagram: The traditional five-pointed star, most often shown within a circle.

The Upside-down Cross: A mockery of Jesus' death on the cross. Sometimes the cross is shown with broken "arms."

An Upside-down Cross Incorporating an Inverted Question Mark: The "Cross of Confusion," questioning the authority and power of Jesus.

The Quarter Moon and Star: Represents the moon goddess Diana and Lucifer, the "Morning Star." When the moon is reversed, it is usually satanic.

The Inverted Swastika: The swastika originally represented the perpetual progression of the four seasons, the four winds, the four elements, and so forth. Already perverted when the Nazis claimed it as their symbol, it is supposedly inverted by Satanists to show the elements of nature turned against themselves and out of harmony with God's divine plan of balance.

The Ritual Calendar: Satanism adapted the traditional calendar of witchcraft and celebrates eight major festivals, known as Sabbats: February 1—Candlemas; March 21—spring equinox; April 30—Walpurgisnacht; May 1—Beltane; June 21—summer solstice; August 1—Lammas; September 23—fall equinox; October 31—Samhain; December 21—winter solstice.

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SATELLITES AND SNOOPING

Project Echelon is supposed to be busy detecting terrorist activity, but conspiracy theorists fear that its high-tech talents are also being directed at U.S. civilians who have politically incorrect opinions.

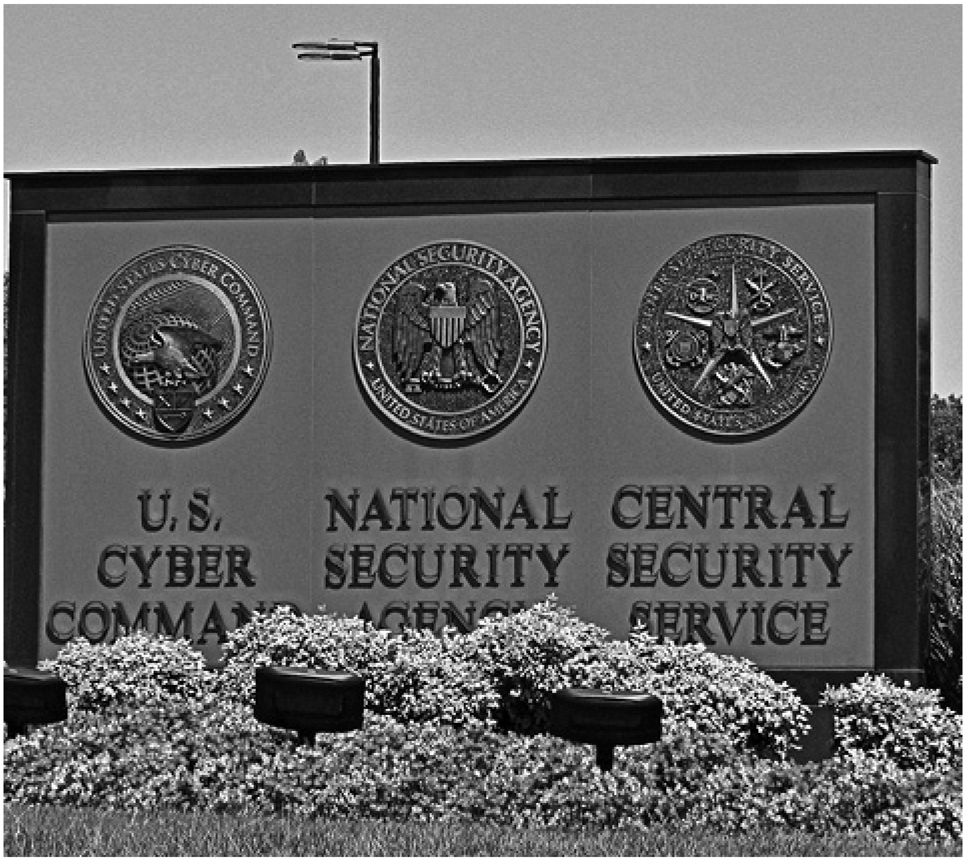
One of the first projects assigned to the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) was the conversion of the aurora borealis into a massive transmitting antenna that would be utilized in conjunction with ground-based antennae in order to create a multitude of frequencies that could be transmitted from stations spaced around the planet. The principal transmissions would be at extremely low frequencies (ELF), the same range in which the human brain operates. ELF transmissions can be tuned to impair the brain performance of a large segment of the population of any nation or to spy on and monitor certain individuals. ELF can penetrate walls, roofs, and underground bunkers. Through auroral surveillance technology, no computer hard drive is secure, regardless of the encryption employed.

The U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) already has in place the most complete surveillance program ever created codename Echelon. This global spy system has the ability to capture and analyze virtually each telephone call, fax, email, and telex message transmitted anywhere in the world. Although Echelon is managed and controlled by NSA, it functions with full cooperation from the communications and intelligence apparatus in the other members of the so-called "Five Eyes" group who have been sharing surveillance data since the end of World War II: Great Britain, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. With intercept stations all over the planet, Echelon is able to gather all satellite, microwave, cellular, and fiber-optic communications, then process this data through the cutting-edge technology of the enormous computer facilities of NSA, which even has advanced voice recognition and optical character recognition programs to detect any code words or phrases.

All members cooperating with Echelon have agreed to a top-secret, highly classified 1948 document known as "UKUSA." Ostensibly Echelon is busy detecting terrorist activity, but conspiracy theorists have evidence that its high-tech talents are also being directed at U.S. civilians in a domestic surveillance program targeted at individuals who have politically incorrect opinions or who diverge in some way from what the "listeners" consider the norm. The fact that such illegal eavesdropping violates the First, Fourth, and Fifth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution is of little or no concern to the "listeners" and the "watchers."

President Harry S. Truman established the NSA in 1952 with a classified presidential directive that remains secret to all but a few government agents with top clearance ratings.

The government didn't even acknowledge the existence of the NSA until 1957. It has been determined that NSA's original assignment was to conduct intelligence and communications security for the government. President Ronald Reagan added the mission of information systems security and operations security training in 1984 and 1988. In 1986 the NSA was also given the task of supporting combat operations for the Department of Defense. In its headquarters at Fort George Meade, Maryland, the NSA has unquestionably the most extensive and complete assemblage of intelligence-gathering equipment in the world. NSA is the largest global employer of mathematicians, code makers, code breakers, linguists, computer geeks, and electronic experts.



Fort Meade in Maryland, just outside Washington, D.C., serves as the headquarters for not only the National Security Agency but also the Central Security Service and the U.S. Cyber Command.

Many conspiracy theorists fear that within a few years all Americans will be forced to receive a programmable biochip implant somewhere in their body. Initially people will be informed that the biochip will be used largely for purposes of identification. The reality is that the implant will be linked to a massive supercomputer system that will make it possible for government agencies such as NSA to maintain a surveillance of all citizens by ground sensors and satellites. With the help of satellites, the implanted person can be followed anywhere.

Conspiracy researchers believe that even beyond the present incredible snooping powers of Echelon, NSA has developed an electronic surveillance system that can simultaneously follow the unique bioelectrical resonance brain frequency of millions of people. NSA's Signals Intelligence group can remotely monitor information from human brains by decoding the evoked potentials (3.50HZ, 5 milliwatt) emitted by the brain. Electromagnetic frequency (EMF) brain stimulation signals can be sent to the brains of specific individuals, causing the desired effects of depression, anxiety, anger, or sorrow to be experienced by the target.

Defenders of Echelon are quick to state that it was such signals-intercept technology that helped contain and eventually defeat the USSR during the cold war. Conspiracists would argue that that was then, this is now—and Echelon, designed originally to target Communist and terrorist states, is currently being directed against virtually every citizen on the planet. Echelon must not be used as a threat to the liberties of the American people or to assess the political, religious, and personal opinions of individuals.

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RICHARD MELLON SCAIFE

Billionaire Richard Mellon Scaife may have single-handedly funded the "vast right-wing conspiracy" that Hillary Clinton claimed was plotting against her husband.

In 1999 the *Washington Post* declared Richard Mellon Scaife the "funding father of the Right." A billionaire philanthropist and owner-publisher of the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, Scaife became so active in his efforts to dig up dirt against President Bill Clinton that many Democrats were convinced that Hillary Clinton's claim about "vast right-wing conspiracy" persecuting her and her husband was a reference to Scaife.

Scaife was the principal backer of the *American Spectator* and the "Arkansas Project," whose mission was to discover the "real facts" about Clinton. Although the "project" publicized Paula Jones and her accusations of sexual harassment against Clinton, the allegations of financial misconduct and a number of additional sexual indiscretions were largely dismissed. The greatest misfire of the Arkansas Project was the claim that the Clintons had worked with CIA rogue agents in a drug smuggling ring out of Mena, Arkansas, and that they had ordered the murder of Vince Foster to silence him.

The heir to a massive oil and banking fortune, Scaife became interested in politics when his father, Alan Scaife, served with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) during World War II and the family lived in Washington, D.C. In 1956 the younger Scaife became a committeeman for the Allegheny Republican Party, and in 1964 he was drawn to Barry Goldwater's presidential campaign because of his mother's friendship with the candidate. For a time, Scaife headed Forum World Features, a publishing company later exposed as a front organization for the CIA. His first venture into circumventing campaign finance laws occurred when he donated $999,000 to the 1972 reelection fund of Richard M. Nixon. After the Watergate scandal broke in 1972, Scaife refused to speak with Nixon ever again.

Scaife was regarded by those who know him as a very private, taciturn man who never granted interviews and who seldom spoke—even during his own board meetings.

Over the past few decades, the Scaife foundations gave hundreds of millions in funding to such right-wing groups as the Heritage Foundation, the American Enterprise Institute, and the Cato Institute. Although he has received the most publicity for his generous financial support to conservative political causes, Scaife also controlled the Carthage Foundation, the Sarah Scaife Foundation, and the Allegheny Foundation. He was key benefactor for many art galleries, museums, orchestras, and educational institutions, such as the University of Chicago, Boston University, the University of Pittsburgh, and Bowling Green State University. He controlled the Scaife Family Foundation until 2001, when that position was shared by his son and daughter. In 2005, Scaife, the principal heir to the Mellon banking, oil, and aluminum fortune was ranked No. 283 on the Forbes 400.

Although Scaife's efforts to remove President Bill Clinton from office were well-known, in the autumn of 2007 he reversed his opinion of Clinton because of the work that the former president's foundation was accomplishing on a global basis. To the astonishment of all who had followed Scaife's anti-Clinton machinations over the past several years, the *Pittsburgh Tribune Review* endorsed Hillary Clinton for president two days before the Pennsylvania presidential primary.

To the chagrin of some of his fellow conservatives, Scaife was a major donor to abortion rights advocates and has given millions to Planned Parenthood. His mother Sarah's favorite causes were population control, environmental conservation, and hospitals. In fact, Jonas Salk developed his polio vaccine in a Sarah Scaife–sponsored laboratory.

By 2013, Scaife's fortune was estimated at $1.4 billion. He died the following year.

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SCIENTISTS' SUSPICIOUS DEATHS

It appears that there is nothing safe about being a research scientist when the New World Order is looking over your shoulder.

There are many conspiracy theorists who believe that numerous research scientists in a wide variety of fields have been murdered in recent years because they were going to act as whistle-blowers regarding the character and direction being taken by their companies' biological warfare research, nuclear devices, or missiles. Some of the scientists were opening up new areas of promising research regarding alternative energy sources. Some conspiracy theorists set the body count of scientists who have met strange, bizarre, and untimely deaths at ninety or more. As with all of the body counts or death lists that we include in this encyclopedia of conspiracies and secret societies, we add our disclaimer that many of the individuals on such lists may have suffered from long-term illnesses, met their demise in accidents totally devoid of nefarious circumstances, or committed suicide of their own free, albeit troubled, will. By the same token, conspiracy researchers remind us that secret government agencies have developed means of making murders appear to be deaths due to natural causes or accident. Some of these methods are designed to be able to avoid detection in autopsies and postmortem examinations. A declassified CIA assassination manual states that a "contrived accident" is "the most effective technique of secret assassination." An example of an "efficient technique" is "a fall of 75 feet or more onto a hard surface." Other insidious techniques involve the injection of cancer cells, heart attack inducements, and absorption of deadly, untraceable poison. There are some deaths on these lists that do seem quite suspicious, and that is why we include them for your own assessment.

Some conspiracy theorists set the body count of scientists who have met strange, bizarre, and untimely deaths at ninety or more.

Frank Olson, November 1953: Olson worked for the CIA's Special Operations Division at Fort Detrick, Maryland, testing biological weapons. After attending a conference at Deep Creek Lodge in western Maryland, he told his wife that he intended to quit his job with the CIA. In the early morning of November 29, 1953, Olson went through the window of a hotel room that he was sharing with Robert Lashbrook, a colleague. His death was ruled a suicide at the time, and not until 1975 did Olson's son Eric find out that his father had been given LSD without his knowledge.

According to conspiracy researchers, a literal epidemic of over two dozen mysterious deaths of scientists, experts, and recent science graduates occurred in the 1980s at Marconi or Plessey Defense Systems in the UK. Several of the dead were apparently working on top-secret projects, including some related to the "Star Wars" missile defense program. Among those who died under suspicious circumstances are the following:.

Keith Bowden, March 1982: A computer programmer and scientist at Essex University who worked for Marconi Defense Systems, Bowden, forty-six, was considered an expert on computer-controlled aircraft. Police ruled his fatal car crash the result of his having been drinking, but family and friends denied the allegation.

Roger Hill, March 1985: Hill, forty-nine, was a radar designer with Marconi. His death from a shotgun blast was ruled a suicide by the coroner.

Jonathan Wash, November 1985: A digital communications expert who worked at British Telecom's secret research center in Suffolk, Jonathan Wash, twenty-nine, fell to his death from a hotel room in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Vimal Dajibhai, August 1986: Dajibhai, twenty-four, was responsible for testing computer control systems at Marconi Underwater Systems. His 240-foot fall from Clifton Suspension Bridge, Bristol, was ruled a suicide.

Arshad Sharif, October 1986: Sharif, twenty-six, allegedly committed suicide in a particularly bizarre manner by looping a ligature around his neck, tying the other end to a tree, then driving off in his car with the accelerator pedal pushed to the floor. Sharif had been working on satellite detection systems for submarines.

Dr. John Brittan, January 1987: A respected scientist involved in top-secret work, Brittan, fifty-two, was found dead from carbon monoxide poisoning in his garage after he had returned from a trip to the United States.

David Skeels, February 1987: An engineer with Marconi, Skeels, forty-three, was found dead in his car with a hosepipe connected to the exhaust.

Peter Peapell, February 1987: Peapell, forty-six, had been working with various metals and their resistance to explosives when he was found dead in his garage, allegedly from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Shanni Warren, April 1987: In order for the verdict of suicide to be fulfilled in the case of Warren, twenty-six, she had to be capable of tying her feet with a rope, binding her hands behind her back, gagging herself with a noose around her neck, then wobbling to a small lake and drowning herself in eighteen inches of water. Four weeks after her death, GEC Marconi took over Micro Scope, the small company in which she had served as personal assistant.

Russell Smith, January 1988: Smith, twenty-three, a laboratory technician with the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Essex, died as the result of a fall from a cliff at Boscastle in Cornwall.

Alistair Beckham, August 1988: A software engineer with Plessey Defense Systems, Beckham, fifty, was found electrocuted in his garden shed.

Peter Ferry, August 1988: The assistant marketing director at Marconi, Peter Ferry, sixty, was found electrocuted in his apartment with electrical leads in his mouth.

Andrew Hall, September 1988: The thirty-three-year-old Hall was found dead of carbon monoxide poisoning in his garage. He had served as engineering manager with British Aerospace.

While the reports of mysterious deaths and suicides involving microbiologists and other scientists employed by Marconi Defense Systems in the UK are unsettling to say the least, it appears that certain aspects of research science is no safer in other parts of the world.

Dr. Tsunao Saitoh, 1996: Saitoh, forty-six, a leading researcher of Alzheimer's disease, and his thirteen-year-old daughter were found shot to death in La Jolla, California. Police who found Saitoh dead behind the wheel of his car and his daughter lying outside the vehicle described the murder as professionally done.

Dr. Yaacov Matzner, Avishai Berkman, and Professor Amiram Eldor, November 24, 2001: Matzner, fifty-four, dean of the Hebrew University–Hadassah Medical School in Jerusalem, one of the world's leading experts on blood diseases, and Eldor, fifty-nine, head of the hematology institute at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital, an internationally known expert on blood clotting, and Berkman, fifty, director of the Tel Aviv Health Department, were killed on their way back to Israel via Switzerland when their plane came down in a dense forest two miles short of the landing field in Zurich.

Dr. Don C. Wiley, November 2001: Wiley, fifty-seven, one of the foremost microbiologists in the United States, was an authority on the response of the immune system to such viral attacks as those from HIV, Ebola, and influenza. Police found his rental car on a bridge outside Memphis, Tennessee, and his body was pulled from the Mississippi River on December 20.

Dr. Robert M. Schwartz, December 2001: An expert in DNA sequencing and pathogenic microorganisms, and a founding member of the Virginia Biotechnology Association, Schwartz, fifty-seven, was stabbed and slashed by a sword in his farmhouse in Leesburg, Virginia. His daughter Clara—a pagan high priestess—and a number of her fellow pagans were charged. In 2003, Clara was convicted of murder and sentenced to forty-eight years; Kyle Hubert, life without parole; Michael Paul Pfohl, twenty-one years; and Katherine Inglis, twelve months.

Dr. Nguyen Van Set, December 2001: Set, forty-four, had just received international acclaim for discovering a virus that could be modified to affect smallpox, when he accidentally entered an air-locked storage lab and died from exposure to nitrogen.

Dr. Victor Korshunov, February 2002: Korshunov, fifty-six, an expert in intestinal bacteria in children, was clubbed to death near his Moscow home.

Ian Langford, February 2002: Recognized as an expert in environmental diseases Langford, forty, was found dead in his home near Norwich, England, naked from the waist down and stuffed under a chair.

David Wynn-Williams, March 2002: Wynn-Williams, fifty-five, died when struck by a car while jogging near his home in Cambridge, England. The respected astrobiologist had been studying microbes that might survive in outer space.

Dr. Steven Mostow, March 2002: A well-known expert in bioterrorism of the Colorado Health Sciences Center, Mostow, sixty-three, died when the airplane he was piloting crashed near Denver.

Dr. David Kelly, July 2003: Kelly, fifty-nine, was an internationally known biological warfare weapons specialist who held a senior post at the British Ministry of Defense and who advised Prime Minister Tony Blair regarding the weapons of mass destruction allegedly held by Saddam Hussein in Iraq. He was found dead after apparently slashing his wrists in a wooded area near his home at Southmoor, Oxfordshire.

Robert Leslie Burghoff, November 2003: Burghoff, forty-five, had been on the trail of the virus that seemed to be plaguing cruise ships when on November 22, 2003, a white van jumped the curb, struck him, then sped on without stopping. Burghoff died an hour later.

William T. McGuire, May 2004: The body of McGuire, thirty-nine, professor and senior program analyst at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, was found in three suitcases floating in Chesapeake Bay.

Dr. Eugene Mallove, May 2004: Mallove was bludgeoned to death shortly after he had published an open letter to scientists regarding free energy sources and cold fusion technologies. Harvard educated, the holder of three earned doctorates, he spent the last fifteen years of his life researching cold fusion and seeking new energy devices.

Dr. Bassem al-Mudares, July 2004: The mutilated body of al-Mudares, a highly respected chemist, was found in Samarra, Iraq.

Professor John Clark, August 2004: Clark was head of the science lab at the Roslin Institute in Midlothian, Scotland, that became a world-famous biotechnology research center when it cloned Dolly, the sheep. Clark was found hanging in his holiday home.

Dr. Jeong H. Im, January 2005: Im, seventy-two, a protein chemist and retired research assistant professor at the University of Missouri, was stabbed numerous times and his body left in the trunk of his burning automobile.

Dr. Robert J. Lull, May 2005: A former president of both the American College of Nuclear Physicians and the San Francisco Medical Society and an expert on the threat of nuclear terrorism, Lull, sixty-four, was found stabbed to death in the entryway of his hilltop home in San Francisco shortly after he had called for full BSE (mad cow disease) testing.

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SCIENTOLOGY

Best known as a celebrity cult of the rich and famous, Scientology intimidates and controls its rank-and-file members.

Few new religious movements have received as much negative publicity or been investigated by so many government agencies as has Scientology.

The founder, L. Ronald Hubbard, known to Scientologists the world over as "L. Ron," is said to have studied many Eastern philosophies as he journeyed around the globe. A background in mathematics, engineering, and nuclear physics grounded him in the physical sciences at the same time that he was exploring the human mind through an examination of Freudian psychoanalytic theory. When injuries suffered in service as a naval officer during World War II left him crippled and blind, Hubbard claimed that his ability to draw upon mental insights allowed him to cure himself of his disabilities. He called this process Dianetics, and he first outlined its central elements in article for the May 1950 issue of *Astounding Science Fiction* magazine. Later that same year, Hubbard published *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*.

A sci-fi and fantasy novelist by trade, L. Ron Hubbard found his fortune after writing Dianetics and founding the Church of Scientology.

Dianetics states that there are essentially two components of the mind, the analytical and the reactive. The analytical aspect, similar to the Freudian concept of the ego, is the consciously active and aware part of the mind. The reactive mind comes into play during times of intense stress when, very often, the analytical facet shuts down. Although the individual may not be aware of the process, the reactive mind absorbs and records every nuance of emotional, mental, and physical pain suffered by him or her. Hubbard called the impressions or "recordings" made by the reactive mind during moments of trauma "engrams," and while the conscious, analytical mind may remain unaware of their presence, they can cause debilitating mental and physical problems and inhibit a person's full potential.

The Dianetics process called "auditing" enables a troubled or inhibited individual to explore those engrams preventing his or her development and to be "cleared" of such impediments by an "auditor," a minister of Scientology. Once a Scientologist has been "cleared," he or she may continue progress to a state wherein freedom from all the constraints of matter, energy, space, and time is attained and a transcendent level of near-perfection is achieved.

Shortly after the publication of *Dianetics*, Hubbard established the Hubbard Association of Scientologists International in Phoenix, Arizona. In 1954 the First Church of Scientology was founded in Los Angeles. Increasing demand for information about Scientology led to the establishment of the Founding Church of Scientology along with the first Academy of Scientology in Washington, D.C., in July 1955. Today, Scientology claims around eight million members and over three thousand churches worldwide.

In spite of warm endorsements regarding the benefits of Scientology from celebrities such as John Travolta, Kelly Preston, Tom Cruise, Isaac Hayes, Priscilla Presley, and Kirstie Alley, the organization is very often in the center of controversies involving accusations that it poses as a religion while it mentally and physically abuses its adherents. Richard Behar, writing in the May 6, 1991, issue of *Time* magazine, stated that rather than being a religion or a church, Scientology "is a hugely profitable global racket that survives by intimidating members and critics in a Mafia-like manner."

For years, though, Scientology was able to successfully avoid much unwanted attention from the media or government. That was by design. The IRS revoked the Church's tax-exempt status in 1967. Six years later, Scientology launched "Operation Snow White," a complex espionage campaign which infiltrated their operatives into government jobs so that they could steal documents and engage in surveillance. The Church also waged a take-no-prisoners war against ex-Scientologists or investigative journalists (Hubbard's repeated message to his top acolytes had been "Never defend, always attack") that kept the lid on much of the negative press for many years.

That began to change in 2013, with the publication of Lawrence Wright's *Going Clear: Scientology, Hollywood, and the Prison Belief*. That book and a documentary of the same title laid out in extensive detail the Church's attempts to ruin those who left and the nearly slave-like conditions in which many of its members were forced to live. Secret no longer, Scientology has since then seen many ex-members come forward to tell their stories.

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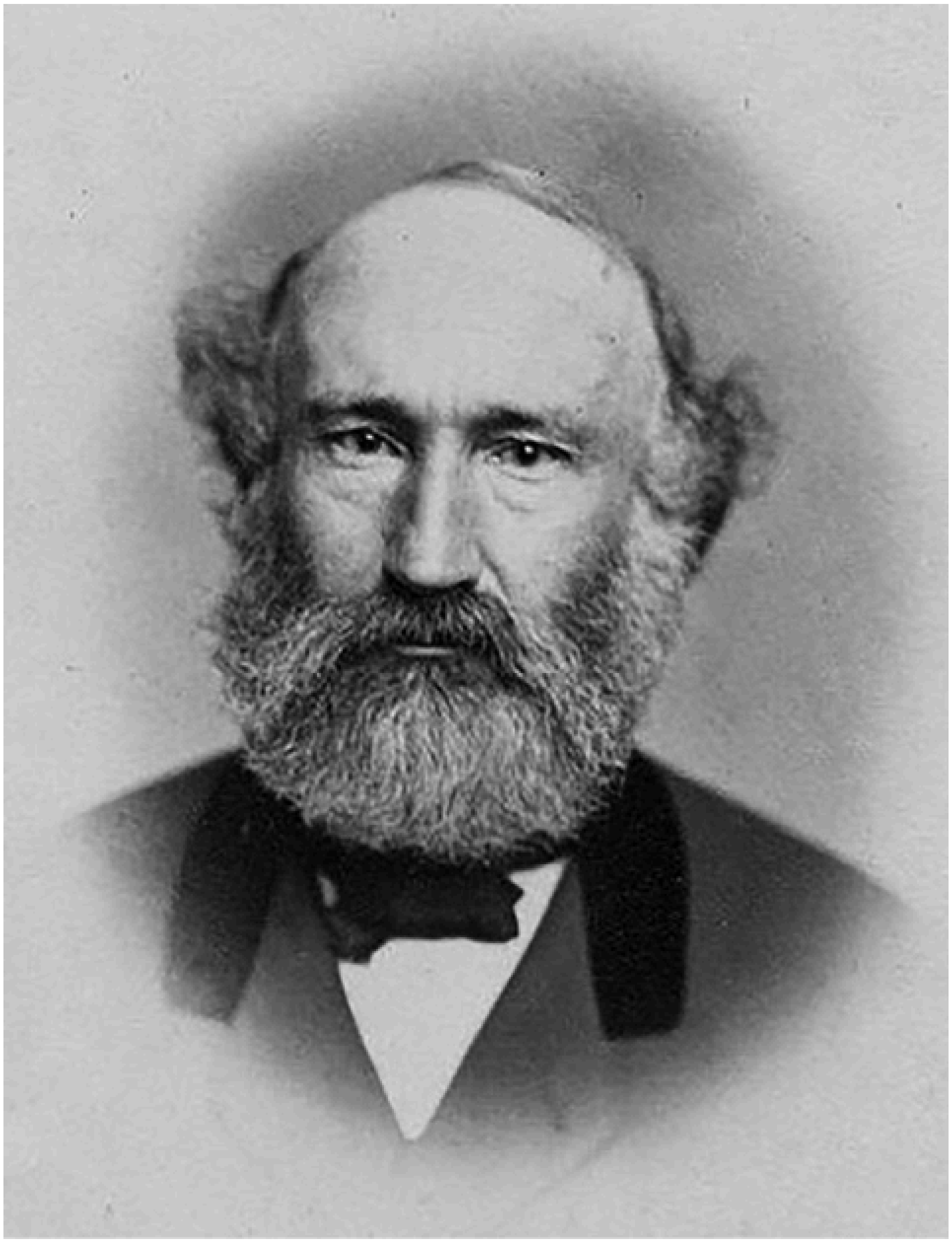
SKULL AND BONES

Conspiracists are certain that this college fraternity is really an occult secret society worships the absolute power of the state and the New World Order.

When William Huntington Russell returned to Yale from his studies in Germany in 1832, his head was filled with the philosophy of reason as taught by Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel at the University of Berlin. In Hegel's worldview, the state is Absolute Reason and individuals must give their total obedience to it. The state has supreme rights over individuals, and individuals must recognize that their supreme duty is to the state. Russell also returned to Yale with the notion of establishing a group like ones he had seen in Germany. He called it the “Order of Scull and Bones,” later changed to Skull and Bones.

The society, which Russell formed with Alphonso Taft (class of 1833), exists only at Yale, and only fifteen juniors are selected by senior members to be initiated into the next year’s membership. Skull and Bones is not your typical beer-swilling, goof-off fraternity. The initiates’ vows have to do with supporting one another in achieving success after graduation. William Russell (1833) rose to the military rank of general and became a state legislator in Connecticut. Alphonso Taft was appointed U.S. attorney general, then secretary of war, ambassador to Austria, and ambassador to Russia. His son, William Howard Taft (1887) was elected to the U.S. presidency in 1909 and later became chief justice of the Supreme Court, the only person to have achieved both positions.



A Yale University teacher and Whig Party state representative in Connecticut, William Huntington Russell founded the Skull and Bones secret student society. Also known as the Order, Order 322, and The Brotherhood of Death, the group is supposedly a part of the Illuminati.

Since 1856, Skull and Bones has held its mysterious occult rites in a vine-covered, windowless brownstone hall known as the "Tomb." A mystique quickly grew around Skull and Bones. Professors objected because of its secrecy smacked of anti-American elitism. As early as 1873 a New Haven newspaper published an article that condemned the society as an "obnoxious, deadly evil" with an increasing "arrogance and self-fancied superiority."

In the 2004 election, the U.S. had two "Bonesmen" squaring off as presidential opponents. Both George W. Bush and John Kerry are members of the secret society, and Bush has brought five fellow Bonesmen to join his administration, the most recent being William Donaldson (1953) to serve as the head of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Ron Rosenbaum, author and Yale classmate of George W. Bush, told CBS News in 2004 that he had a thirty-year obsession with Skull and Bones. The columnist said that he actually lived near the "Tomb" and passed it all the time. When the initiation rites were being conducted, he said, he could hear "strange cries and whispers" coming from the sepulchral, windowless building.

Another Yale graduate, Alexandra Robbins, claims in her book *Secrets of the Tomb* (2002) that she managed to penetrate the avowed wall of silence that surrounds the society. In her opinion, the sounds that Rosenbaum heard were likely "mumbo-jumbo," a silly ritual that means something only to the people who are in the society. "There is a devil, a Don Quixote, and a Pope who has one foot sheathed in a white monogrammed slipper resting on a stone skull," Robbins told Morley Safer of CBS News. "The initiates are led into the room one at a time. And once an initiate is inside, the Bonesmen shriek at him." After enduring the shrieking, the initiate is shoved to his knees in front of Quixote as the assembled Bonesmen fall silent. Quixote then lifts his sword and taps the initiate on his left shoulder and says, "By order of our order, I dub thee knight of Euloga."

According to tradition, Prescott Bush (George W. Bush's grandfather) and some fellow Bonesmen robbed the grave of the great Apache chief Geronimo and took home his skull as a relic for the tomb. Accounts are mixed as to whether the skull was returned to the Apache nation.

The family names to be found on the roster of Skull and Bones truly represents the powerful, the wealthy, the elite—the aristocracy of the United States: Rockefeller, Goodyear, Harriman, Whitney, Lord, Taft, Jay, Bundy, Weyerhauser, Pinchot, Sloane, Stimson, Phelps, Perkins, Pillsbury, Kellogg, Vanderbilt, Bush, Lovett, and so on. In his book *America's Secret Establishment*, Anthony Sutton detailed some of the chains of influence and power that enables the Bonesmen to accomplish conspiratorial plots.

W. C. Whitney (1863) married Flora Payne of the Standard Oil dynasty and became secretary of the navy. Elihu Root, Whitney's personal attorney, hired Henry Stimson (1888) directly out of law school. Root later became secretary of war, and Stimson was appointed to that position by William Howard Taft in 1911. Later Stimson was President Calvin Coolidge's governor-general of the Philippine Islands, President Herbert Hoover's secretary of state, and secretary of war during the administrations of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman. Stimson's personal assistant and point man for the Manhattan Project was Holister Bundy ('09), whose two sons, William ('39) and McGeorge ('40), both Bonesmen, went on to high ranks in the CIA, the Department of Defense, the State Department, and as special assistants to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. The Bundy brothers exercised considerable influence on the information flow during the Vietnam War, and William went on to be appointed editor of *Foreign Affairs*, the quarterly of the Council of Foreign Affairs. McGeorge became president of the Ford Foundation.

See how the "chain" of influence passed on from Bonesman to Bonesman works?

Let's take another chain, the Harriman–Bush links. Averell Harriman (1913), revered elder statesman of the Democratic Party, his brother Roland (1917), Prescott Bush (1917), and four other Bonesmen from the class of 1917 dominated two major investment bank firms, Guaranty Trust and Brown Brothers, both of which were heavily involved in financing Hitler's regime and, at the same time, the advancement of Communism in Russia. Skull and Bones began with an admiration of the Hegelian ideal of sublimation of the individual to the state, and some Bonesmen continue that ideal, working to achieve a New World Order. Averell Harriman, as minister to Great Britain in charge of the Lend-Lease program for both Britain and the Soviet Union, shipped entire factories into Russia—and, according to some conspiracy researchers, was responsible for the transfer of nuclear secrets, plutonium, and U.S. currency printing plates to the USSR. In 1942 the U.S. government acting under the Trading with the Enemy Act, seized the property of Prescott Bush on the grounds that he was fronting for the Nazis. However, after World War II had ended, Prescott Bush became a U.S. senator from Connecticut and a favorite golfing partner of President Dwight Eisenhower, who, as commander in chief of the Allied forces, had directed the European invasion that defeated the Nazi regime. Prescott also claimed personal credit as one of the Eastern money men behind Richard M. Nixon's rise to political power and for persuading Eisenhower to add Tricky Dick to the ticket as vice presidential candidate.

Is Skull and Bones simply a college fraternity drawing upon old traditions copied from a German student secret society, tapping fifteen rich boys each year to undergo an initiation that's nothing but "mumbo-jumbo"? Or is there something sinister in the occult-based, sanitized Satanism that worships the absolute power of the state and the New World Order?

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GEORGE SOROS

The Budapest-born billionaire has become the focal point of almost too many conspiracy theories to list.

If Richard Mellon Scaife is the "funding father of the right," then "funding father of the left" would probably be an apt title for George Soros. Born in Budapest, Soros survived both the Nazi occupation and the Communist take-over of his homeland before emigrating to England in 1947. After graduating from the London School of Economics, Soros moved to the United States in 1956 and began to amass a fortune through an international investment fund that he founded and managed. Active as a philanthropist since 1979, Soros created the Open Society Institute and a network of philanthropic organizations that benefit humanity in dozens of countries. In 1992 he founded Central European University in Budapest, and he continues spends millions annually to support a range of programs that focus on civil society, education, media, public health, and human rights. Today he is chairman of Soros Fund Management LLC.

Billionaire philanthropist George Soros is worth over $8 billion and has donated some $32 billion to the Open Society Foundation, a nonprofit that supports various educational, justice, health, and media initiatives around the world.

Soros never really involved himself in U.S. politics until George W. Bush became president. Perhaps his resolve to remove Bush from office was not personal, since Soros's Harken Energy had bailed Bush out of financial distress in 1986 by buying his dying oil company, Spectrum 7. However, on November 11, 2003, Soros told the *Washington Post* that removing Bush from office had become the "central focus" of his life. Soros did not hesitate to pronounce the cause of getting rid of Bush as "a matter of life and death," for which he would be willing to sacrifice his entire fortune. Eventually Soros donated over $23 million to various groups dedicated to replacing the Bush administration.

He did not stop there. On April 16, 2005, Soros met with seventy millionaires and billionaires of like philosophy to plan strategy for the creation of left-leaning programs to compete with such conservative institutions as the Heritage Foundation and the Leadership Institute. The participants in the meeting began to call themselves the Phoenix Group.

Conspiracy theorists declare that Soros owns the Democrats and is working hard to control the Republicans. He invested $100 million in the Carlyle Group, which boasts many highly influential Republican leaders in its membership, including former President George H.W. Bush.

Operating through a "shadow party," Soros donated $5 billion to the Democratic National Committee to guarantee Barack Obama's victory in 2008. In November 2008, Soros told the German magazine *Spiegel* that after taking office President Obama would seek a large stimulus package in excess of $600 billion. Soros also seemed confident that the president would deal with global warming and energy dependence, and encourage a cap-and-trade system. Conspiracy theorists state that the *Spiegel* interview provides clear proof that Obama was essentially Soros' puppet.

Since then, Soros has continued donating large amounts to various causes, many of them supportive of the Democratic Party or backing democracy reforms. His vast wealth, investment tactics (a large batch of his fortune can be traced to the legendary 1992 bet against the British pound which reportedly netted him $1 billion), liberal politics, and Jewish ancestry have made him the favored villain of many anti-Semitic conspiracy theories over the years. Conspiracists have claimed that Soros betrayed his fellow Jews to the Nazis, pays left-wing activists to show up to protests, and has used groups like Black Lives Matter to sew racial discord. In recent years, it has actually been easier to determine what conspiracy researchers have *not* tried to connect Soros to.

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SPHINX

Is the largest surviving statue from the ancient world, the product of extraterrestrials, Atlanteans, or a long-forgotten civilization?

In Greek mythology, the sphinx was a half-woman, half-lion creature that guarded the gates of Thebes, an ancient Egyptian city. A scourge fell upon the land that could be lifted only by solving a riddle posed by the sphinx: What begins life on four legs, lives most of its life on two legs, and ends life on three legs? In *Oedipus the King*, the Greek dramatist Sophocles has Oedipus solve the riddle with the answer "a human," for as infants we crawl on all fours before learning to walk on two legs, and in old age we walk with the use of a cane—a third leg.

The Great Sphinx at Giza has posed riddles that have perplexed researchers for centuries: How old is the structure and who built it? Even in ancient times, some sources dated it as preceding the Pyramids and attributed it to architects from a lost civilization.

The Sphinx, the largest surviving statue from the ancient world, was sculpted out of limestone bedrock. The massive sculpture has the head of a man in Egyptian headdress sporting a spiraling beard, a feature found on many likenesses of pharaohs. It has the body of a lion, with two paws resting beneath the head and chest. It rises 66 feet high; the leonine body stretches for 240 feet.

Was the Great Sphinx at Giza the work of extraterrestrials or, perhaps, survivors of Atlantis?

The Sphinx faces due east and is referred to in some Egyptian hieroglyphics as Hamachis, the god of the rising sun. Hamachis later evolved into the name Hor-em-Akhet. The akhet is an Egyptian hieroglyph in the image of two triangles, both open at the base, connected by a line, which represents where the sun rises and sets—an image that comes to life when looking out from the Sphinx to the pyramids of Cheops and Cephren at sunset on the summer solstice. As the sun sets between the pyramids, it highlights the image of two triangles (the pyramids) connected by a line (the earth).

It was long commonly accepted that the Sphinx was sculpted during the same era when the Pyramids were built, about 2650 to 2550 B.C.E. According to a traditional historical view, the Sphinx has been most often associated with the pharaoh Khafre, who is presumably buried in the second-largest of the three pyramids at Giza. At least two statues of Khafre have been found that bear a striking resemblance to the face of the Sphinx. Egyptian religion had taken on sun worship shortly before Khafre's reign, and because pharaohs were viewed as god-kings, the association of Khafre and Hamachis is plausible. Reconstruction of the Sphinx is apparent, and archaeological evidence shows Thutmose IV had the Sphinx rescued from being buried by desert sand and ordered a renovation around 1500 B.C.E.

John Anthony West, author of *The Serpent in the Sky: The High Wisdom of Ancient Egypt*, argues that the Sphinx was created by refugees from Atlantis, the legendary continent supposedly destroyed around 9500 B.C.E. Graham Hancock and Robert Bauval, coauthors of *The Orion Mystery*, say it was built by wanderers from an advanced civilization that thrived on the continent of Antarctica before it was frozen over during a global catastrophe at the end of the last ice age.

Edgar Cayce prophesied that answers to the mysteries of ancient civilizations would someday be yielded by the Sphinx. According to Cayce, a secret passageway leads from one of the Sphinx's paws to its right shoulder, where there exists a Hall of Records that contains the wisdom of a lost civilization and the history of the world.

UFO researchers and authors who investigate ancient mysteries believe that the true history of the Sphinx will one day reveal clues left by extraterrestrials who inspired the construction of the massive sculpture and who deposited records of their visitation to Earth within its hidden chambers.

The enigma of the age of the Sphinx was renewed in August 1992 when an article in *Omni* magazine detailed the work of Robert M. Schoch, a geologist whose research suggested that the limestone core of the Sphinx dates from 5000 B.C.E. and that the granite facing was added at the conventional time when the Sphinx is dated, around 2500 B.C.E. Schoch attributes the extremely weathered look of the Sphinx to erosion that began with heavy rains from the period between 5000 and 3000 B.C.E. Schoch's dating is based solely on geological evidence, rather than information from hieroglyphics or other histories.

John Anthony West has promoted a theory that an advanced, pre-Egyptian civilization was responsible for the Sphinx. He believes that much of the weathering took place because of rains and floods. West points to the period around 9000 B.C.E., when the end of the Ice Age may well have affected weather patterns. A great flood, perhaps the one recounted in the biblical story of Noah, affected the Sphinx, and afterward all the structures at Giza show erosion by wind and the slow but steady encroachment of desert.

West hired Schoch, a science professor specializing in geology at Boston University, to explore the erosion of the Sphinx from a geological standpoint. During his first trip to Giza, Schoch noticed extreme erosion in two temples located in front of the Sphinx. Where the granite covering of the temples had slipped off, the exposed limestone was extremely weathered. The newer granite facing indicated to Schoch that the Sphinx was restored, not constructed, during the reign of Khafre.

Subsequent studies led Schoch to conclude that the Sphinx was constructed in stages and underwent several restorations. The head and part of the body were originally carved as far back as 5000 B.C.E. The body was completed, and the face restored by chiseling away weathered limestone during Khafre's reign. However, pushing the origin of the Sphinx to 5000 B.C.E. and attributing its erosion primarily to water creates problems, for that time frame predates the development of mastabas, tombs that were built between 5000 and 3000 B.C.E. and show no signs of weathering by water.

Since the limestone cannot be dated by modern techniques (radiocarbon dating can only determine the age of things that were once animate), Schoch's findings have been widely disputed by other geologists. The age of the Sphinx continues to be considered in the context of other monuments, and the date of 2500 B.C.E. still holds weight among conservative Egyptologists.

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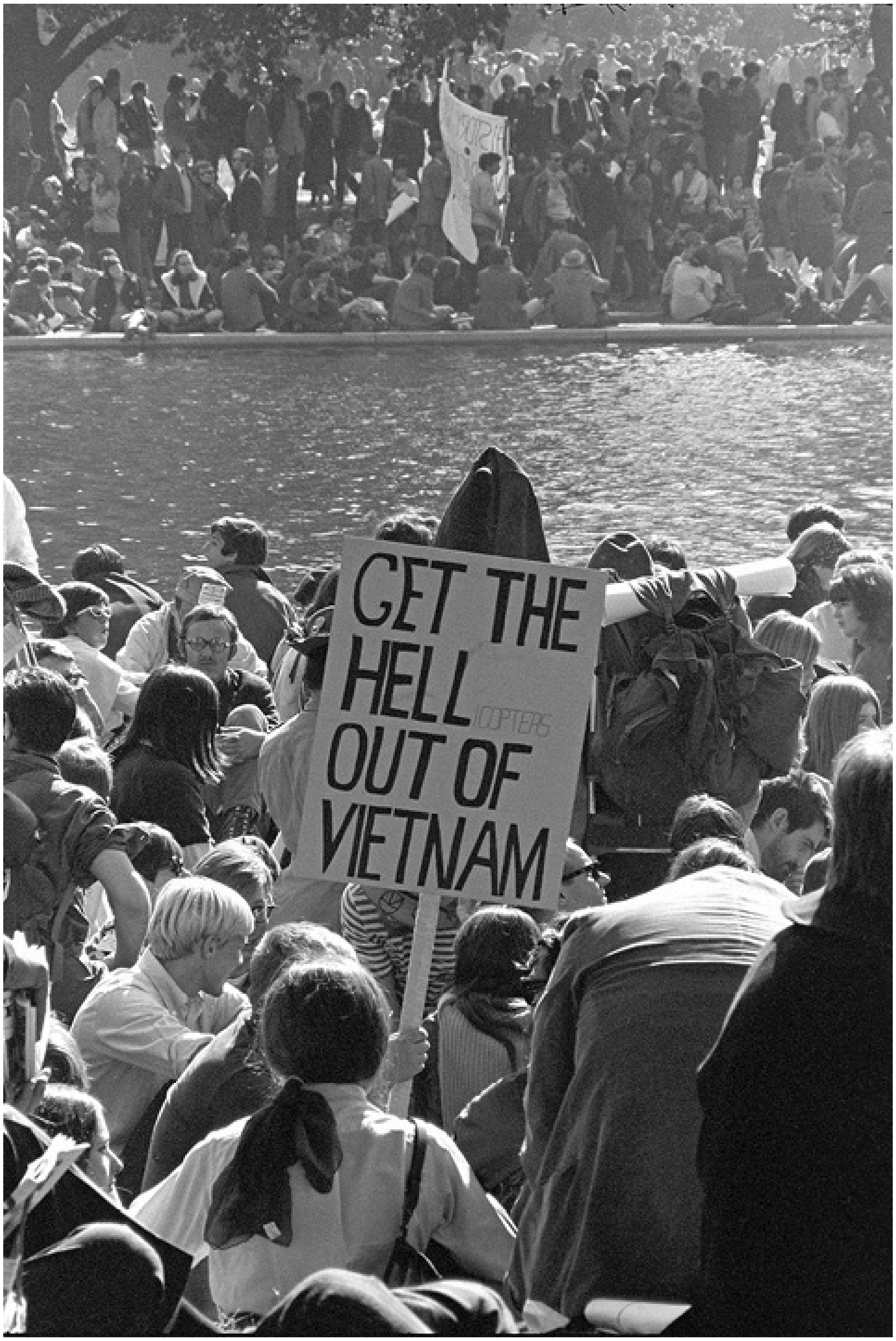
STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

The Students for a Democratic Society began in idealistic protest of the Vietnam War but disintegrated into chaos when too many divergent voices of protest arose.

During most of the 1960s, the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) constituted the institutional strength and hope of the New Left. In June 1962 fifty-nine SDS members and like-minded students gathered in Port Huron, Michigan, and drafted a sixty-three-page platform that criticized the government's cold war policies and reproved the materialistic attitudes of postwar American culture. It seemed logical to those who composed the Port Huron Statement that colleges and universities should serve as the conduit through which a new movement of "participatory democracy" would flow to the broader facets of American society. The SDS ideal of shifting power from the established representative institutions to communities and individuals seemed unrealistic and impractical to a nation already indoctrinated to a central federal government.

In 1963 SDS formed the Economic Research and Action Project as what they hoped would be an effective demonstration of participatory democracy in action. In the summer months of 1964, SDS volunteers in nine cities worked among the poor, striving to mobilize the disadvantaged to march toward a new insurgency.



War protests like this one in Washington, D.C., in 1967 were what the Students for a Democratic Society were initially all about.

The SDS had gained a reputation as revolutionaries and extremists. However, when the SDS turned their attention to antiwar activism, they touched a chord to which fellow students responded in droves. On April 17, 1965, the SDS led the first of many mass demonstrations against the Vietnam War when they rallied 15,000 protestors to Washington, D.C. In November 1965 they cosponsored a demonstration that drew 50,000 to signal their disillusionment with the government's policies in Asia and the world.

Perhaps the image of the SDS that comes most readily to the memories of those who are old enough to remember the 1960s is the protest at Columbia University when the students occupied campus buildings and staged sit-ins in the academic administrative offices. The protest occurred in April 1968 and was directed at the university's participation in war-related research. At the same time, many academically attuned students protested Columbia's appropriation of a public park as the site for a new athletic building. University administrators finally sought police help in ending the student occupation of campus buildings and facilities. There were scuffles and resistance, and over 200 students were injured and 712 arrested.

The archetype for student demonstrations and protests had been born in the occupation by SDS of Columbia. Within days of the arrests, students took over buildings and conducted sit-ins in academic and political administrative offices on at least forty other college and university campuses across the nation.

With that great explosive triumph of revolutionary excess at Columbia and the other campus occupations it inspired, the SDS had succeeded too well in their expectations. Membership swelled so rapidly that no central control or direction could exist. New members brought different concepts and ideas for protest, and soon the SDS was broken apart by divisions within its own ranks. The organization that had sought participatory democracy as its ideal had been destroyed by too many participants with vastly differing concepts of what their focus should be. SDS for a Democratic Society had morphed into an even more revolutionary sect known as the Weathermen.

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SUBLIMINAL MESSAGING

Are you confused about why you think or do something? Maybe your thoughts are not really your own.

During the 1950s, postwar prosperity in the United States, combined with new mass mediums like television, created not just a glut of consumer products vying for people's attention and dollars but also a boom in marketing and advertising. Known to some as the "Persuasion Industry," marketers knew that they needed to draw on every possible tool at their disposal to sway people's thinking toward the brands they were hawking. Among those tools were psychologists, who at the time were frequently consulted by advertisers seeking ways to more effectively make people want to buy certain products, preferably without knowing they were being persuaded to do so.

Though not exactly secret, this practice was not widely known, either. That changed in 1957 when Vance Packard's *The Hidden Persuaders* described experiments conducted by advertising executive James Vicary at a movie theater. The phrases "Drink Coke" and "Hungry? Eat Popcorn" were flashed on the screen every few seconds during a showing of the movie *Picnic* so rapidly that people did not consciously see them. Vicary said his results showed that viewers' subconscious minds did receive the message, and as a result, Coca-Cola and popcorn sales rose. Though Vicary admitted years later that the messaging had actually not shown any positive results, Packard's book—arriving not long after public awareness of *Manchurian Candidate*-style Chinese brainwashing—frightened many people into believing that they were being secretly manipulated without knowing it. As a result, subliminal advertising was outlawed in some countries, though not the United States.

Many people believe, often with good justification, that companies routinely insert subtle cues in their messaging that, while not specifically subliminal, are meant to manipulate the viewers' perspective in less obvious ways. A 1980s Coca-Cola advertisement in Australia was revealed to have an only slightly hidden image of a woman engaging in sex. Baskin-Robbins hid a reference to their 31 flavors in the logo. The swoosh in Amazon's logo extends from the "A" to the "Z," communicating to consumers that the website carries everything they need.

Some conspiracists see darker intent in subliminal messaging. Frequent charges occur that children's movies or TV shows contain hidden references to graphic sex. Some people claim that shows like *SpongeBob SquarePants* have tried to entice viewers to commit suicide. Similar claims have been made over many years by people who say they found dark messages about death and Satanism coded into popular rock songs.

Believers in this conspiracy theory worry that it would be all too easy for powerful forces to change what we think, want, and do without us ever knowing.

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SUBPROJECT 94

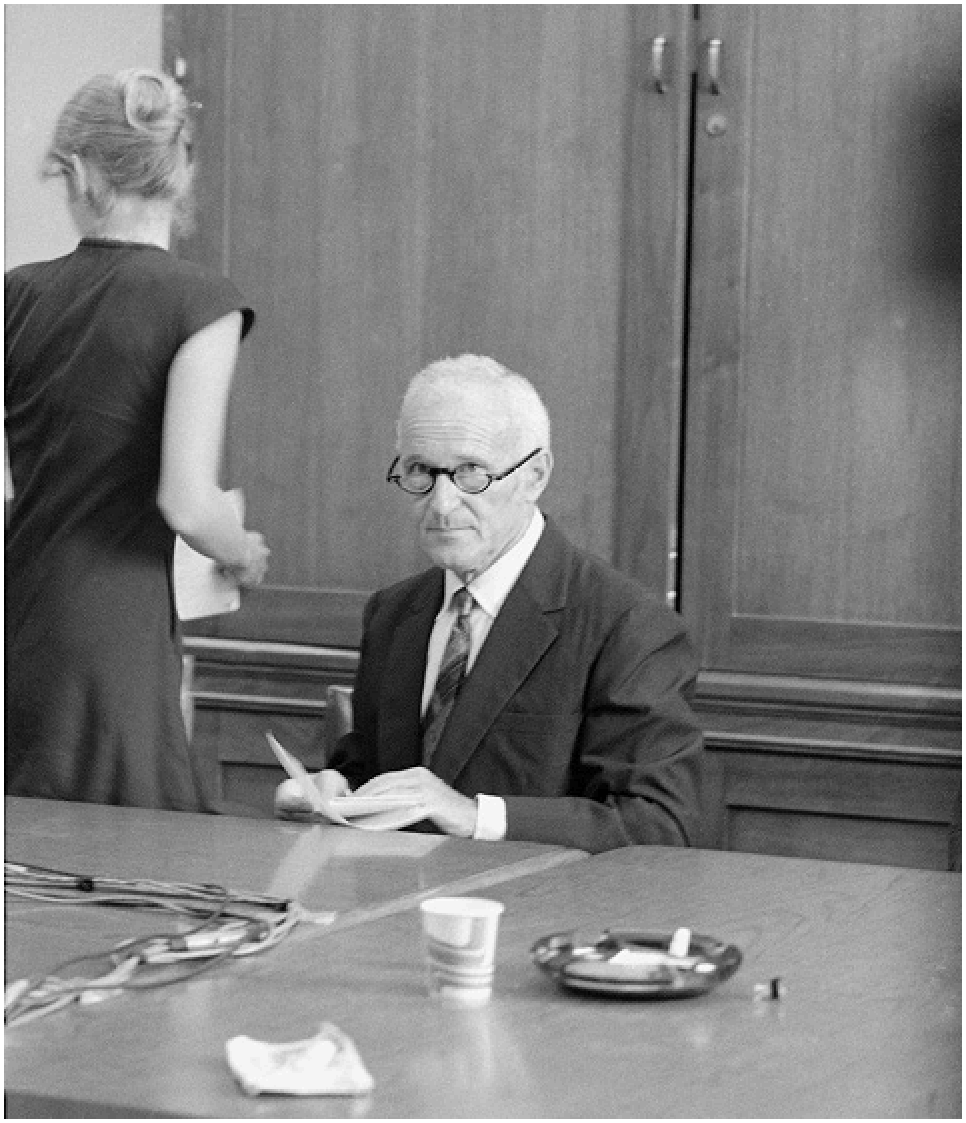
Viet Cong prisoners were the "expendables" in these experiments with brain implants.

MK-Ultra, the code name for the CIA's experiments with mind control, was begun on the orders of CIA director Allen Dulles in 1953 and headed by Dr. Sidney Gottlieb. When experiments with LSD on staff members and volunteers seemed productive, Gottlieb began to experiment with the drug on unsuspecting individuals. For some experiments he was joined by Dr. Donald Ewen Cameron, who had assisted the Office of Special Services (OSS) to interrogate Nazi prisoners during World War II. Intrigued by the experiments conducted on concentration camp prisoners by German doctors, Cameron later contracted to work for the OSS, which became the CIA in 1947, in the field of behavior manipulation. He continued this specialty in Projects Bluebird and Artichoke, which became MK-Ultra in 1953. Due to his excessively harsh experiments with electroshock, LSD, drug-induced comas that sometimes lasted for months, and his penchant for performing prefrontal lobe lobotomies, Cameron's experiments proved far too extreme for some of his "patients" and many of them died.

Under the aegis of the CIA's mind-control research program MK-Ultra, the infamous Dr. Sidney Gottlieb started around 1960 to include experiments with animals. In Operation Resurrection, apes were lobotomized, then placed in total isolation. After a time, the experimenters would direct radio frequencies into the brains of the apes, who immediately went mad and died, their brains literally fried. Additional experiments were conducted with dogs, cats, and monkeys in which miniaturized electrode implants were inserted in specific brain areas. Some tests were intended only to see how physical actions might be stimulated or controlled electronically. In certain instances, the animals were living bombs, guided toward their targets by electrode implants and miniaturized microphones.

In April 1961 Gottlieb assessed the animal experiments as successful and decided that it was time to experiment with electrode implants in human brains. No records exist to disclose how many cruel experiments were conducted with unwilling human subjects, for in 1972 Richard Helms, director of the CIA, ordered all MK-Ultra records destroyed, but information leaked out concerning experiments with three Viet Cong prisoners in July 1968.

A team of "behaviorists" flew into Saigon and traveled to the hospital at Bien Hoa where the prisoners were being confined. The agents from "Subproject 94," as the effort was code-named, set up their equipment in an enclosed compound, and the team's neurosurgeon and neurologist inserted minuscule electrodes into the brains of the three VC prisoners.



A chemist by training, Sidney Gottlieb (shown here in 1977) became a spymaster for the CIA and head of its infamous MK-Ultra mind-control project.

After a brief recovery period, the prisoners were armed with knives and direct electrical stimulation was applied to their brains. The goal of the experiment was to determine if individuals with such electrodes implanted in their brains could be incited to attack and to kill one another. Once again, the Agency was seeking a perfect sleeper assassin, a true "Manchurian Candidate," who could be electronically directed to kill a subject.

After a week of enduring electrical shocks to their brains, the prisoners still refused to attack one another. They were summarily executed and their bodies burned.

Conspiracy theorists state grimly that it is impossible to know how many individuals were implanted with microelectrodes that might still be activated by orders to kill a politician, pope, or president by a secret shadow agency within the government.

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Conspiracy
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NIKOLA TESLA: THE GENIUS AND THE ALIENS

When Tesla died, he held over seven hundred patents. Some researchers claim that the genius may have had some extraterrestrial assistance.

Nikola Tesla was the genius who brought the world into the electrical age. Born in Croatia in the old Austro-Hungarian Empire, Tesla attended the Polytechnic School in Graz, Austria, and the University of Prague. He worked as an electrical engineer in Europe before emigrating to America in 1884 and arriving on the streets of New York City with four pennies in his pocket.

Tesla created his brilliant scientific hypotheses through the power of a vivid imagination and vast intuitive abilities. Before he even drawing plans for a new invention, he would work out the entire idea in his mind. Mentally, he would alter the construction, make adjustments, even operate the device. Perhaps most astonishing is that Tesla never had to put the drawings of the new mechanism down on paper for himself. Because he had worked the concept out so completely in his mind, he could give the exact measurements of all the parts to his workmen, and when the machine was completed, all the parts would fit just as accurately as though Tesla had made a drawing or blueprint. The inventions that he conceived in such a manner always worked. In this way he made his first electric motor, the vacuum wireless light, the turbine engine, and many other inventions.

Tesla worked less than a year with Thomas Edison in New Jersey. Although they respected each other's genius, the differences in style between the two made a long-term working relationship out of the question. George Westinghouse, founder of the Westinghouse Electric Company, understood the advantages of Tesla's system of alternating current over Edison's direct current, and he bought patent rights from Tesla in 1885. The efficiency of AC was demonstrated when Westinghouse successfully lit up the whole World Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893.

Tesla established his own laboratory in New York City in 1887, and it was here that the inventor would demonstrate the safety of alternating current by allowing electricity to flow through him and light the lamps he held in his hands. In 1891 he became a U.S. citizen, and in 1895, according to certain of his intimates and various biographers and investigators, he made contact with alien intelligences by projecting certain energy rays into space. By conducting mental exchanges with these intelligences, Tesla developed in rapid succession the induction motor, new types of generators and transformers, a system of alternating-current power transmission, fluorescent lights, a new type of steam turbine, and plans for a new wireless transmission of power.

Tesla began construction of a wireless broadcasting tower on Long Island, but in 1900 the financier J. Pierpont Morgan withdrew his support. Tesla continued to work with turbines and other projects until 1931, when, legend has it, he joined other scientists working on a top-secret project in invisibility that would culminate in the famous Philadelphia Experiment.

According to certain researchers, the initial stages of the experiment began under the aegis of a U.S. Navy–sponsored team including Tesla and the Austrian physicist Emil Kurtenauer. In 1933 the project was moved to the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University. Joining the group was John von Neumann, a brilliant mathematician who had been at the University of Berlin and the University of Hamburg before he emigrated to the United States. Although Albert Einstein was aware of the experiment, now called "Project Rainbow," he did not participate directly in its operation.

An inventing genius and rival of Thomas Edison, Nikola Tesla had ideas that were at times so wild that some speculate he had help from extraterrestrials.

According to Al Bielek, who claims to have joined the project later, the concept of the Philadelphia Experiment was set up by a group of extraterrestrial intelligences (ETIs) who had actually met physically with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1934 aboard the battleship *Pennsylvania*, somewhere in the mid-Pacific. Roosevelt made an agreement with the aliens that would exchange ETI technology for certain planetary privileges. Tesla, who had been interacting with the extraterrestrials since 1895, arranged the meeting.

Tesla's initial communications had been with entities from the Pleiades who appeared to be completely human and who explained that humankind on Earth had issued from their original stock. These aliens, labeled the K-Group, could easily pass for average humans—except for the greenish tint of their skin. Whenever they wished to interact undetected with humans, they would dye or color their epidermis.

After a second meeting with the ETIs, President Roosevelt signed a treaty of mutual noninterference, and the sciences in the United States enjoyed a remarkable acceleration of theory and application on nearly all levels.

Bielek has claimed that the group of geniuses carried out a partially successful experiment in invisibility at Princeton in 1936. The Navy's initial test in invisibility was scheduled to occur on a cold day in March 1942. All the levers were pulled, the buttons pushed, but nothing happened. Bielek is convinced that Tesla sabotaged that first attempt to place a warship into a state of invisibility. Tesla supposedly had issued a formal protest against having a live human crew on board the *Eldridge*, the destroyer used in the test. The brilliant inventor, who created every detail first in his mind, insisted that the experiment should first be tried with the vessel unmanned. He also demanded that the scientists be given more time to work out some problems that he foresaw as he reviewed all the equipment. Tesla's request was denied. Told that the Philadelphia Experiment must go forward, he left Project Rainbow in protest.

Ten months later, on January 7, 1943, Tesla was found dead in his hotel room. According to many varying accounts and theories, the navy's experiment in invisibility was conducted in July or October of 1943 with disastrous results. The *Eldridge* got through the test all right, but many of the crew members suffered horrible tortures and ghastly deaths.

At the time of Tesla's death, he held over seven hundred patents. The many notebooks that the genius left are still studied by engineers and scientists for inspiration and new ideas.

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THE TESLA MAGNIFYING TRANSMITTER AND WEATHER CONTROL

Some scientists have issued warnings that in the future an advanced technology of electromagnetic weapons will be able to control the weather. One theory is that technology invented by Nikola Tesla will be integrated into HAARP (see also the entry on HAARP).

Conspiracy theorists are convinced that there is much more going on at the HAARP facility than the air force and navy admit. And they are not alone in their suspicions.

If the vibrator were to be built large enough, Tesla warned, it could transmit mechanical vibrations through the earth that could literally split the planet in half.

Dr. Rosalie Bertell confirmed that U.S. military scientists "are working on weather systems as a potential weapon." In her book *Planet Earth: The Latest Weapon of War*, Dr. Bertell warns that electromagnetic weapons have the power to transmit explosive and other effects, such as earthquake induction, across intercontinental distances to any selected target site on the globe with force levels equivalent to nuclear explosions. Former French military officer Marc Filterman stated his conviction that by the early 1980s both the U.S. and the Soviet Union had already mastered the science to unleash sudden climate changes, such as hurricanes and droughts.

Many researchers are certain that the military and/or the New World Order/Illuminati are utilizing Nikola Tesla's discoveries in HAARP technology and in other weather-control devices. Tesla's electronic and electromagnetic breakthroughs were never fully realized because they were judged too futuristic and sensitive by the scientific establishment of his time. Tesla believed that some of his inventions could manipulate the weather—even to the point of controlling earthquakes. He once boasted that with one of his power vibrators, he could shake down the Empire State Building. Tesla was confident that the frequency on his resonant vibrator could pass through the earth with almost no loss of energy and that such an invention could be used with deadly effect in warfare. If the vibrator were to be built large enough, Tesla warned, it could transmit mechanical vibrations through the earth that could literally split the planet in half.

Lt. Col. Thomas Bearden, a well-known nuclear engineer and Tesla researcher, has said that the Tesla Magnifying Transmitter (TMT) can literally send energy waves through anything. The TMT is capable of setting up a standing wave that feeds off the molten core of the planet, then, by changing the frequency, it reaches up to the atmosphere and can alter jet streams and weather flow patterns by ionizing the air. The TMT could cause massive weather changes over large areas of the earth.

Other researchers point out that one of Tesla's principal goals was the collect the sun's energy that was stored in the earth's atmosphere. In his experiments he had noted that the planet's atmosphere tends to collect a lot of charge from the electrons entering the North Pole region and the protons entering the South Pole region. Tesla believed that if scientists could harness this charge, they would have access to almost unlimited clean electric power, free from coal and gas emissions, and eliminating the hazards associated with nuclear energy power plants.

On the other side of the coin, if scientists working for the New World Order were to harness the sun's energy collected in the atmosphere, that enormous power could also be used to control weather to the detriment of other than the elite. Entire regions of the earth could be destroyed with flooding, earthquakes, drought, endless freezing winters, and interminable scorching summers.

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THUGGEE

No secret cult of killers has ever murdered as many people as the Thuggee. Although no longer organized, lone-wolf assassins still practice the deadly craft of strangulation around the world.

Membership in the Thuggee was hereditary, and its practitioners were trained from earliest childhood to murder by the quiet method of a strong cloth noose tightened about the neck of their victims. This weapon, the "rumal," was worn knotted about the waist of each member of the Thuggee. All deaths were considered a sacrifice to the goddess Kali, the "Dark Mother," the Hindu triple goddess of creation, preservation, and destruction.

> **All victims of the Thuggee were sacrificed to Kali, and the members of the secret society would have been greatly incensed by an accusation that they killed only for booty.**

The Thuggee, also known simply as Thugs, traveled often in the guise of traders, pilgrims, and even as soldiers. On occasion the more flamboyant would pretend to be a rajah with a large retinue of followers. Each band of Thuggee had a small until of scouts and inveiglers who would loiter about hotels and marketplaces gaining information regarding travelers and the weight of their coin purses. The inveiglers posed as travelers headed for the same destination as their intended victims. They would worm themselves into the confidences of their prey, pleading the old adage of safety in numbers.

The mass slaughters of large groups of merchants and travelers were usually committed during their encampment. Working in groups of three, one Thuggee would loop the killing noose around the victim's neck, another would press his head forward, and the third would grab his legs and throw him to the ground. In the rare instance when an intended victim escaped the noose, he would run into scouts posted at the edge of the jungle. In the 1830s this Indian secret society is reported to have fatally strangled upwards of thirty thousand people.

The Thuggee had a peculiar code of ethics that forbade the killing of fakirs, musicians, dancers, sweepers, oil vendors, carpenters, blacksmiths, maimed or leprous persons, Ganges watercarriers, and women. Despite the restriction against the murder of females, however, the presence of wives traveling with their husbands often led to the strangling of a woman to protect the secrecy of the society.

The one unbreakable rule of the brotherhood was the one prohibiting the shedding of blood. According to Thuggee beliefs, the goddess Kali taught the fathers of thuggery to strangle with a noose and to kill without spilling blood. All victims of the Thuggee were sacrificed to Kali, and the members of the secret society would have been greatly incensed by an accusation that they killed only for booty.

With the exception of small boys captured or spared during a raid, one had to be born into the cult in order to become an initiate. The minimum age for initiation into the society was ten; at eighteen, initiates were permitted to make their first human sacrifices to Kali. The female counterparts were members of a secret sect of Tantrists who believed that only by constant indulgence in wine, meat, fish, mystical gesticulations, and sexual licentiousness could a human ever achieve total union with Kali.

Although the Thuggee probably originated sometime in the sixteenth century, they were not uncovered by British authorities until about 1812. In 1822 William Sleeman, an officer in the Bengal Army transferred to civil service, was appointed by the Governor General Lord Bentinck to rid India of the society of stranglers. Fluent in four Indian dialects, Sleeman had been the British official who first confirmed the growing suspicion that the Thuggee were committing murders throughout central India. He was well aware that stopping them would be no easy task, for the members of the secret society were indistinguishable from the many bands of outlaws who infested the country's roads—or from any of the travelers and merchants who were their victims.

By meticulously marking on a map the site of each discovered attack and by maintaining careful records of the dates, Sleeman was able to begin to predict the areas where the next mass murders were likely to take place. Between 1830 and 1841 Sleeman's police captured at least 3,700 Thugs, breaking the back of the infamous secret society.

Trials of Thuggee brought out many ghastly facts. A band of twenty confessed that they had participated in 5,200 murders. An individual named Buhram, who had been a strangler for forty years, had the highest lifetime score to his discredit—931. When asked if he experienced any feelings of remorse or guilt, he answered sharply that no man should ever feel compunction in following his trade.

Five hundred of the apprehended Thugs were hanged, the rest imprisoned for life, except for fifty who received pardons for supplying valuable information used in destroying the secret society. The condemned Thuggee went to their own deaths with the same lack of emotion with which they had murdered their victims. In many instances, their final request to the hangman was that they be permitted to place the noose around their own necks.

Although isolated cases of a Thug's proficiency with a noose still arise in India and in other parts of the world, the stranglers who murdered in the name of the goddess Kali no longer exist as a secret society. Their legacy lives on in the word "thug."

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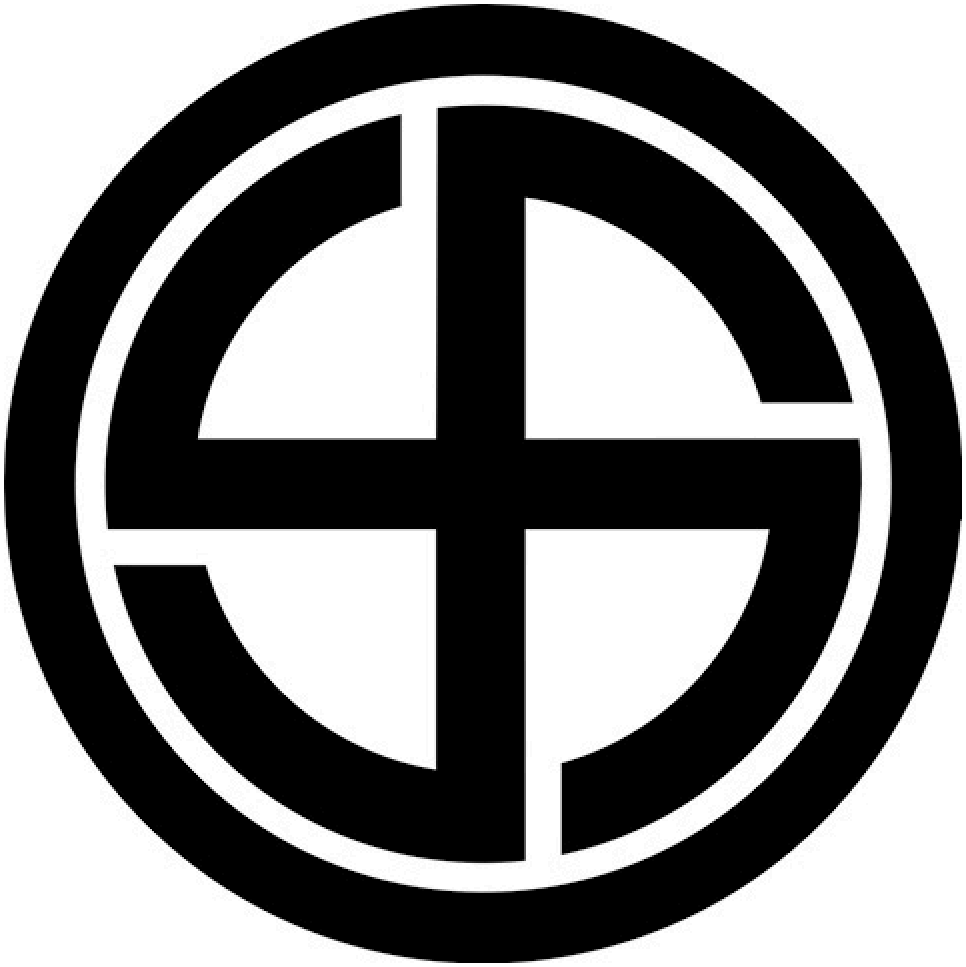
THULE SOCIETY

Dedicated to the rebirth of Aryan/Teutonic supremacy, the resurrection of Nordic mysticism, and the defeat of Christianity, the Thule Society prepared the path for the advent of the master race.



The symbol of the Thule Society, with its notable swastika, was also used by the German Worker's Party.

During the late nineteenth century Cyrus Read Teed, a former Union army Medical Corps physician, claimed that a civilization inhabited the concave inner surface of Earth. Teed made a religion of his discoveries and changed his name to Koresh, the Hebrew equivalent of his given name, Cyrus. As the self-proclaimed messiah of Koreshanity, he formed a church and founded a community on a three-hundred-acre tract in Florida in 1894. He lived there with about 250 followers until 1908.

In 1871 the occultist Edward Bulwer-Lytton's novel *The Coming Race* stirred imaginations around the world with an account of the subterranean master race who used the Vril force to sustain their secret hollow-earth empire. Extraterrestrial in origin, superior to everyone above or below the soil of Earth, the ancestors of the Aryans have monitored the growth of the surface nations.

In the eclectic cosmology that made up Nazi occultism, "Ultima Thule" was the capital of Hyperborea, the land of the superbeings who inhabited the hollow earth. The Thule Society was founded in 1910 by Felix Niedner, the German translator of the *Eddas*, Old Norse poems from the thirteenth century manuscript *Codex Regius*. The Munich branch of the society was established in 1918 by Baron Rudolf von Sebottendorf (Rudolf Glauer), who while living in Istanbul in 1910 had formed a secret society that combined esoteric Sufism, Freemasonry, and the creed of the Hashshashin. In 1912 Sebottendorf returned to Germany, where he became a member of a secret anti-Semitic lodge known as the Order of Teutons. He was also conversant the Bavarian Illuminati, the Knights Templar, the Holy Vehm, the Golden Dawn, the German Order Walvater of the Holy Grail, and Rosicrucianism. Sebottendorf may have borrowed some concepts and rites from such groups, as well as the Theosophists and various Hermetic schools, but certainly his group, like many other German secret societies, placed special emphasis on claims of the innate mystical strength of the Aryan race. Mme Helena Blavatsky had listed the Six Root Races—the Astral, Hyperborean, Lemurian, Atlantean, Aryan, and the coming master race. Believing the Germanic/Nordic/Teutonic people to be of Aryan origin, and perhaps by forming a group named after the gateway to the other worlds, Ultima Thule, Sebottendorf sought to demonstrate to supermen in the hollow earth the Thule Society's earnestness to please.

The Hyperboreans, the master race in the earth's interior, usually remain aloof from the surface dwellers, but thousands of years ago they supposedly colonize certain regions of the planet and left such people as the Celts, the Norse, Bretons, Spaniards, and Portuguese with an infusion of certain of their extraterrestrial memories in their minds and evidence of their Rh-negative blood types in their genetic transfer. Those human witnesses who claim to have encountered and communicated with representatives of the Elder Race describe them as humanoid, but extremely long-lived and give evidence of predating the human species by more than a million years.

In 1920 the Nazi Party was created by the Thule group. The Thule *Sonnenrad* (Sun Wheel) was used as inspiration for the Nazi flag and symbol. Hitler and his inner circle had a firm belief in Atlantis and in the superior race that had withdrawn from the surface world and prospered within the hollow earth. These ancient masters, who were likely extraterrestrial in origin, continued to monitor the new race of surface dwellers and from time to time had given humankind a boost up the evolutionary ladder. They were closely observing the Earth nations at this time to determine which people they would invite to inherit their wealth of technological knowledge. The Nazis were determined that it would the German people who would become the heirs of the Master Race.

So great was the Nazi belief in the supermen who dwelt in the Hollow Earth that in April 1942 Nazi Germany sent out an expedition composed of a number of its most visionary scientists to seek a military vantage point in the hollow earth. Although the expedition of leading scientists left at a time when the Third Reich was putting maximum effort in their drive against the Allies, Göring, Himmler, and Hitler are said to have enthusiastically endorsed the project. Steeped in the more esoteric teachings of metaphysics, the Fuehrer had long been convinced that Earth was concave and that a master race lived on the inside of the planet.

The Nazi scientists who left for the island of Rugen had complete confidence in the validity of their quest. In their minds, such a coup as discovering the opening to the Inner World would not only provide them with a military advantage, but it would go a long way in convincing the Masters who lived there that the German people truly deserved to mix their blood with them in the creation of a hybrid master race to occupy the surface world. The extravagant effort to make contact with the Hyperboreans was unsuccessful.

In his book *Shambhala*, author and adventurer Nicholas Roerich writes of his curiosity about the universality of the legends of the underpeople: "You recognize the same relationship in the folklores of Tibet, Mongolia, China, Turkestan, Kashmir, Persia, Altai, Siberia, the Ural, Caucasia, the Russian steppes, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Germany, France; from the highest mountains to the deepest oceans. They tell you how the people closed themselves in subterranean mountains. They even ask you if you want to see the entrance to the cave through which the saintly persecuted folk fled." Throughout the world, Roerich emphasizes, one hears the same "wondrous tale of the vanished holy people. Great is the belief in the Kingdom of the subterranean people."

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TRIADS AND TONGS

Over the centuries, the Triad secret society evolved from a patriotic resistance movement to a powerful worldwide criminal organization.

As with many secret societies, the exact origins of the Triads have been clouded by the mists of legend—and myth and legend are very important to the members of this internationally linked secret society. According to some researchers, in 1647 a community of Buddhist monks from Fukien Province in China had become masters in the art of war. When a foreign prince invaded China, the second Manchu emperor, Kiang Hsi, sent 138 of these fighting monks (*Siu Lam*) to throw out the invading forces. After three months of bitter fighting, the monks routed the enemy and returned to their monastery laden with gifts and honors from the grateful emperor.

Literally, Hung Mun means "men of Hung." Spiritually, the three dots symbolize the unity among heaven, earth, and man.

The monks were content to resume their lives of contemplation, but some of Kiang Hsi's ministers were jealous of them and persuaded him that the monks were deceptively planning a rebellion. Fearful of their martial-arts skills, the emperor decided to attack without warning and sent a strong force of the Imperial Guard, armed with gunpowder, to destroy the monastery. The flames ignited by the blasts of the powder soared up to heaven, where they were seen by the Immortals—who, perceiving the injustice being dealt the monks, came down to earth and pushed aside one of the monastery's huge walls, enabling eighteen monks to escape. Most of them were so badly burned that they soon died, but five survivors escaped from the imperial troops by miraculous means. In Triad lore, those monks are known as the Five Ancestors.

After many ordeals the five came to a city in Fukien Province where they founded a secret society, the Hung Mun, whose aim was to overthrow the Manchu dynasty (also known as the Ching or Qing dynasty) that had betrayed their loyalty and to restore the previous Ming dynasty. The symbol of the Hung Mun society consisted of three red dots, which formed part of the Chinese character for the Ming emperor Hung Wu. Literally, Hung Mun means "men of Hung." Spiritually, the three dots symbolize the unity among heaven, earth, and man. The term *Triad* did not come into being until circa 1931. when it was coined by the British authorities in Hong Kong, who named the criminal organization for the triangular three-dot character for Hung Wu.

Although the revolt against the Ching emperor failed, the survivors scattered throughout China and established five provincial grand lodges, each led by one of the five monks. The Hung Mun society continued to grow, developing secret codes to confound the emperor's spies. This secrecy and the Hung Mun's martial-arts training enabled the society to become protectors of the common people. Eventually, the society became more criminal than political, and they adopted the motto *Ta fu—chih p'in* (Hit the rich—help the poor).

Initiation into the Triad is said to be based on a blood ceremony. First, an "incense master" invokes the ancient five heroes and offers libations of tea and wine. The candidate for initiation is challenged at the entrance to the lodge by guards carrying razor-edged swords. He is allowed to enter only after answering a series of ritual questions as he crawls under the crossed swords. Once inside the lodge, the initiate participates in a lengthy reenactment of the traditional ordeals of the Five Ancestors, swears thirty-six oaths, and learns his first secret signs. Then a rooster is beheaded as a warning to the initiate that he will suffer the same fate if he betrays the Triad. Finally, the initiate drinks a mixture of blood, wine, cinnabar, and ashes. In times past, the blood was drawn from the initiate and other members of the lodge. Today it is generally that of the slaughtered rooster.

The blood oaths that were so favored by the Triads originated with the Yellow Turbans, one of the earliest and most mystical societies in China. Founded in the middle of the second century in northeast China, the Yellow Turbans revered Chang Cheuh, a great healer and magician, as a savior of the nation against the despotic Han dynasty. Chang's society soon numbered so many thousands that he needed thirty-six generals to lead the rebellion which conquered the entire north of China within less than a month. Three of his disciples have been credited with taking the first blood oath when each of them slit open a vein, filled a vessel with blood, and drank the mixture of their vital fluid while vowing eternal brotherhood. This basic blood oath ceremony, with many variations, became an integral part of Triad ritual.

In summer 1900 an aggressive secret society known as *I Ho Chuan* (Fists of Righteous Harmony) drove more than three thousand people—mainly European missionaries, their families, and Chinese Christian converts—into the legation district of Peking. "Boxer" was the Western name for this society, derived from its symbol of a clenched fist and its members' proficiency in martial arts. The Boxers had been given almost a free hand by the Manchu government to free the nation from the foreign imperialists whom they accused of exploiting the Chinese people. The White Lotus Triad, as well as the Big Swords and the Red Fists, joined the rebellion against the Western powers.

The Boxers depended greatly on supernatural elements to aid them in achieving invulnerability. They employed rituals compounded of self-hypnotism, mass hysteria, and drugs. At the height of their ceremonies the initiates reached a state of frenzy wherein they would smash their clenched fists against unyielding surfaces until blood flowed from broken knuckles. At this point they were led into the Inner Temple to learn magical secrets and to receive the power of invulnerability against death at the hands of foreigners. The imparting of invulnerability was followed by a blood oath.

Initially the Boxers directed their violence mainly against small Christian missionary outposts, especially in Shantung Province. These attacks were encouraged by the Empress Dowager Tsu Hsi, who had become regent after forcing her nephew from the throne. On her orders imperial officers assisted the Boxers during the fifty-five-day siege against the foreign legations. However, even before the various nations whose citizens were under attack sent relief forces to capture the city and squelch the rebellion, many imperial soldiers had already deserted the Boxers and were fighting against them.

The Triads reached the United States with the Chinese workers who immigrated to the West Coast during the gold rush fever of the 1840s. Mercilessly exploited by the people who had hired them as common laborers, the immigrants welcomed the protection provided by the Triads that sprang up among their communities, hiding behind the fronts of innocent social clubs. One of the first Triads to establish itself in the United States was the so-called Five Companies, named after the five districts of China. Once entrenched, it began to exploit the same Chinese population it had previously sworn to protect.

The first Tong in America is believed to have originated in San Francisco in 1874. Essentially, the Tong (which originally meant "parlor" or "meeting house") was a protective association created by Chinese merchants to defend themselves against brutal treatment by the white inhabitants of the city and exploitation of the Triads. Eventually the Tong became powerful enough to sell protection to the newer merchants and to establish illegal gambling halls. Success in extortion and gambling led to an extension of activities into opium distribution and prostitution.

The first Tong in New York City was established there in 1880, even though the Chinese population was less than a thousand at the time. By 1890 a rush of immigration had increased the city's Chinese population to thirteen thousand, and the Tong was ready to exploit a population isolated by language, culture, and prejudice. In 1900, rival Tongs ignited a series of Tong wars that lasted intermittently until the 1930s. It was at that time that the larger American public became fully aware of the Tong warriors with their chain-mail shirts and hatchets.

A distinctive characteristic of Chinese organized crime in America is the relationship among the Tongs, the merchants' associations, and the Asian street gangs. In New York City, for example, the street gang Fuk Ching is allied with the Fukien American Association, a merchants' group. Such an association between Tong and gang provides a kind of legitimacy for the criminals and protection for the merchants. In addition, the merchants' meetinghouse gives the gang a place to hang out.

The center of the Triad remains in Hong Kong. There are seven main branches, each with its own area of influence and working independently of the others—the Sun Yee On Triad, the Wo Group, the 14K Triad, the Luen Group, the Big Circle Gang, the United Bamboo Gang, and the Four Seas Gang. Perhaps the largest triad, the Sun Yee On may control as many as 56,000 members.

Although its influence on the course of Chinese politics has been considerable, the Triad has never been unduly concerned about which government happens to be in political power. Sun Yat Sen, the founder of Republican China, used the Chung triad in his 1906 rebellion; the Nationalist government in 1927 was headed by Chiang Kai Shek, a member of the Shang Hai

Green Gang; during the World War II Japanese occupation of China, some Triads helped police Hong Kong. After the Chinese Communist Party took over in 1949, the Triads were mostly pushed out to Taiwan and Hong Kong. Starting in the late 1970s, the CCP saw the potential for an alliance with the Triads and began mending fences.

In recent years, the Triads have made inroads into the casino business in Macau and elsewhere, worked as proxies for the CCP in Taiwanese politics, helped authorities crack down on dissidents in Hong Kong, and possibly laundered money for Chinese spy operations in Canada.

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TRILATERAL COMMISSION

If this secretive circle of elites doesn't look after themselves, who in the world will?

David Rockefeller said that he was inspired to fund the Trilateral Commission after he had read Zbigniew Brzezinski's book *Between Two Ages: America's Role in the Technetronic Era* (1970). Brzezinski, at that time a professor at Columbia University, was convinced that the international upper classes of the developed nations needed to band together in order to secure their future interests. Families like the Rockefellers and the other financial elites wanted certainty any political leaders who gained power would preserve the rights of the established order over those of the masses.

Another prominent member of the Rockefeller clan was David Rockefeller, who was CEO and chair of Chase Manhattan (now JPMorgan Chase Bank). He founded the Trilateral Commission in 1973.

Rockefeller first introduced the concept of the Trilateral Commission at an annual meeting of the Bilderberg group in Knokke, Belgium, in the spring of 1972. He established the Trilateral Commission the following year and hired Brzezinksi away from Columbia University to be the director.

The membership of the Trilateral Commission, like that of the older Bilderberg group, is made up of international financiers, industrialists, media magnates, labor leaders, academics, and political figures. An essential difference lies in the Bilderbergers' strict limitation of membership to participants from Western Europe, the United States, and Canada. The Trilateral Commission recognizes the growing power and influence of the Japanese elite in the world economy.

Later in 1973 Jimmy Carter was asked to become a member of the Trilateral Commission. Carter commented when he won the Democratic nomination for president that the Trilateral members had provided him with a marvelous learning opportunity. He chose fellow Trilateralist Walter Mondale as his running mate, and once elected to the presidency, Carter named Zbigniew Brzezinksi as national security adviser. For his top three cabinet posts, Carter appointed Cyrus Vance, W. Michael Blumenthal, and Harold Brown, all Trilateralists. David Rockefeller had accomplished one of his greatest goals: a Trilateral Commission U.S. presidency.

Conspiracy theorists estimate that the current membership of the Trilateral Commission includes approximately eighty Americans, ten Canadians, ninety Western Europeans, and seventy-five Japanese. Most conspiracists do not believe that the Trilateralists wish the destruction of the United States, but rather that it will instead surrender the country's independence and embrace the concept of a One World Government, a fear that took particular hold among militia groups during the 1990s.

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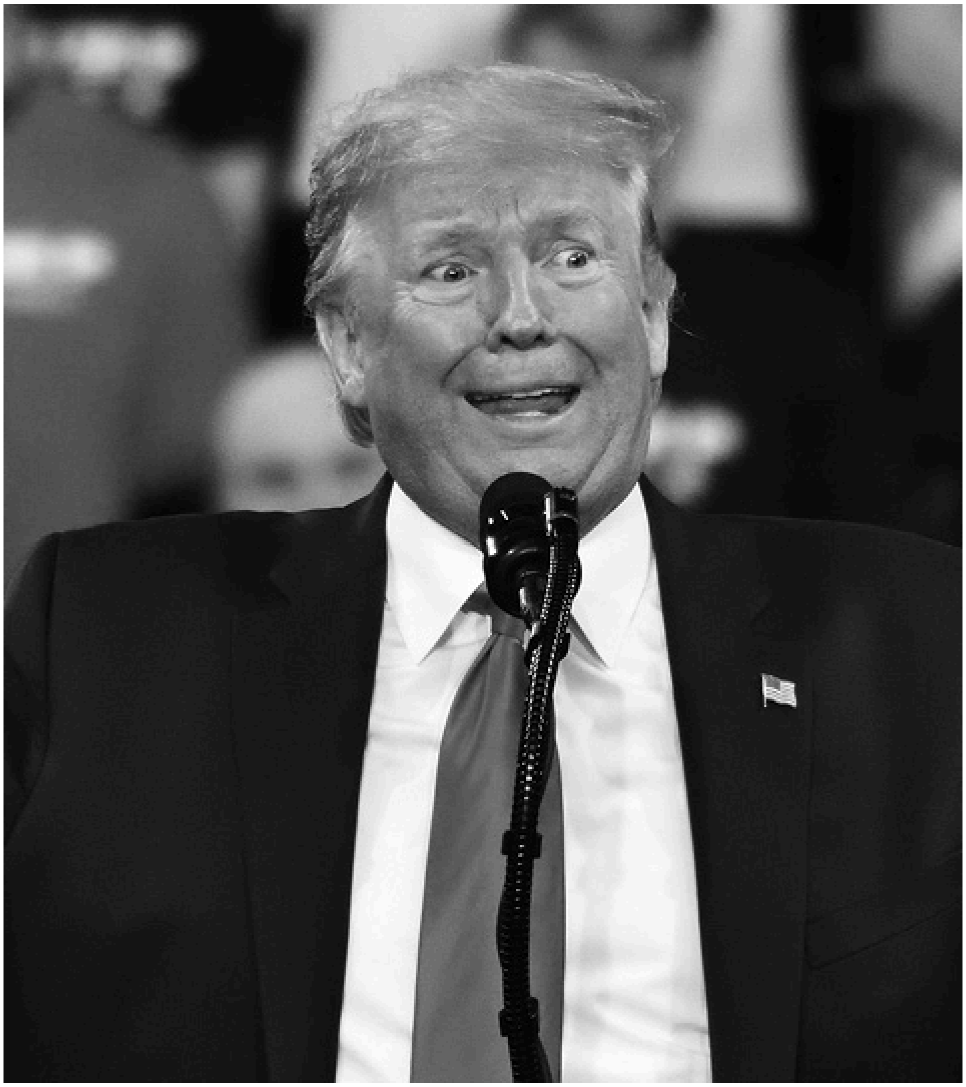
DONALD TRUMP

One thing that made America's 45th president stand out was not that he was the subject of so many conspiracy theories (other presidents can claim that as well) but how many conspiracies he himself believed and promoted.

The son of a wealthy Queens, New York, real estate developer, Donald Trump enjoyed his family's money but was not interested in pursuing what had created the fortune in the first place: building middle-class apartment buildings in the city's boroughs. Trump wanted something more glamorous and set his sights on the far more competitive Manhattan real estate market. From his first major project in 1978, Trump realized that getting himself into the news and stretching the truth helped build his profile, fame, and ultimately business. He explained his approach in his best-selling book *The Art of the Deal*: "I play to people's fantasies…. People want to believe that something is the biggest and the greatest and the most spectacular. I call it truthful hyperbole." Over his career, Trump was caught in many lies—the size of his fortune, the height of his buildings, the number of units he sold in a tower, the ratings of his NBC reality show *The Apprentice*—but perhaps because they played to his acknowledged sense of bravado, the criticism never quite stuck.



More than any U.S. president in history, Donald Trump promoted the notion that conspiracies were everywhere. They ranged from the accusation that President Obama was not a U.S. citizen and attacks on other politicians, to disparaging medical science and journalists and claims about the Deep State and Antifa.

But when Trump, after a couple of earlier efforts that never quite took off, launched his presidential campaign in 2015, his predilection for exaggeration and falsehoods came with a twist that was new for presidential politics: an eager embrace of conspiracy theories. Among the many theories that Trump floated, some of them frequently, were:

- Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia, who died in his sleep in 2016, was actually murdered and had been found with a pillow over his head.
- As vice president, Joe Biden had members of SEAL Team 6 knocked off after a raid on Osama bin Laden failed.
- Biden, who Trump faced in the 2020 election, was in the pocket of foreign business interests due to overseas dealings by his son Hunter, who some claim took a $1.5 billion investment out of China on Air Force Two.
- When the World Trade Center collapsed on 9/11, "thousands and thousands" of people in New Jersey "where you have large Arab populations" were cheering.

- Barack Obama was not born in the United States. Trump started promoting the "birther" theory in 2011 and continued hyping it for years, even after other conspiracy theorists had moved on.
- The Clintons may have murdered both Vince Foster and Jeffrey Epstein to cover up what they supposedly knew.
- Obama supported Islamic terrorism in general and ISIS in specific.
- MSNBC host, former Republican congressman, and Trump friend-turned-critic Joe Scarborough might have murdered one of his own staffers in 2001.
- The father of Ted Cruz, one of Trump's rivals for the Republican nomination, was connected to the assassination of John F. Kennedy through a link to Lee Harvey Oswald.
- The Democratic National Committee's email server was hacked not by Russia (whose social media psyops teams had given support to Trump in the 2016 election) but by Russia's foe, Ukraine.
- Planeloads of anarchists and Black Lives Matter activists were flown to Washington, D.C., to start riots.
- Most of the people identified as dying of COVID-19 actually died of different causes.
- Trump lost the popular vote in 2016 and 2020 only because of Democratic election fraud, including votes from dead people and undocumented immigrants.

Appropriately, while Trump popularized many conspiracy theories, he was also the subject of many theories. Here are some:

- Russian president Vladimir Putin had compromising information about him, which explained why Trump avoided blaming Putin for 2016 election interference.
- Trump actively sought help from foreign countries in order to beat Hillary Clinton.
- In addition to praising Adolf Hitler, Trump kept a copy of Hitler's speeches by his bed.
- Trump has a list of Deep State operatives whose names he will reveal and have arrested when the time is right.

Does all this mean that Donald Trump is the most conspiracy-connected president in American history?

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TWA FLIGHT 800

Is it possible that this airliner was destroyed not by mechanical failure but by a military attack?

At 8:19 P.M. on July 17, 1996, TWA Flight 800 took off from New York City's John F. Kennedy International Airport. Twelve minutes later, the Boeing 747-131 had crossed over Long Island and was above the Atlantic Ocean on its way to Paris when the plane exploded. Every one of the 230 crew members and passengers on board died.

The National Transportation Safety Board studied the crash for four years. They reported that the source of the explosion was most likely in one of the fuel tanks and had likely been caused by a short circuit. However, this explanation did not satisfy many people, who believed that the real reason was something more disturbing than a mechanical mishap. After all, the mid-1990s was a time of increased worries about terrorism, and a 747 had never before been destroyed by this kind of malfunction.

Dozens of witnesses who saw the explosion reported seeing an object or light streaking toward the airliner. It was not long before people began to wonder whether those objects had been missiles. But why would anybody want to shoot down a passenger plane? No terrorist group ever took credit for the attack. Many people had ideas about what St. John's University professor Shane Miller called the first conspiracy of the internet age.

Flight 800 (remnants shown here during reconstruction for the investigation) was lost over the Atlantic Ocean in 1996. Speculation included terrorist attack or other foul play, but the final report said there was no conclusive evidence.

James Sanders's book *The Downing of Flight 800* (1996) argued that a U.S. Navy cruiser accidentally shot the plane down, and the government subsequently covered up the evidence. This theory proved particularly popular and was supported by former reporter and John F. Kennedy press secretary Pierre Salinger. Other arguments for an intentional shoot down claimed that it had been a shoulder-fired Stinger missile (an idea that the NTSB took seriously enough to test-fire Stingers), possibly by the Iranians in retaliation for the United States shooting down Iran Air Flight 655 in 1988.

In 2013, some conspiracy theorists and relatives of those who died on TWA Flight 800 requested a new investigation from the NTSB. Their request was denied.

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UFO COVER-UPS BY THE GOVERNMENT

The U.S. government has been protecting its citizens from the truth and the terror of extraterrestrial invasion since at least 1942.

THE NIGHT UFOs ATTACKED LOS ANGELES

Many UFOlogists list February 25, 1942, as marking the beginning of the "war of the worlds," the day when Earth first came under siege by extraterrestrial beings.

In the days immediately after the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the entire West Coast of the United States was prepared for Japanese bombing raids. Then on February 25, 1942—two days after a Japanese submarine briefly shelled Santa Barbara—the air raid sirens sounded alert in Los Angeles. The U.S. Army's Western Defense Command ordered an immediate blackout of the city from 2:25 to 7:21 A.M. Twelve thousand air raid wardens reported to their posts. Powerful searchlights swept the sky, capturing a large, round, white object in their beams. Antiaircraft batteries blasting out high-explosive shells peppered the clouds with orange bursts of shrapnel.

But no Japanese aircraft were ever detected in the searchlight beams. The next day, news photographs clearly depicted a large, round object that did not look like any conventional aircraft—Japanese or American. Some eyewitnesses described the mysterious object in the night sky as large enough to dwarf an apartment house. They also watched as U.S. Army fighter planes were dispatched to attack the unidentified flying object and bring it down. Although the aerial "dogfight" lasted for about a half an hour, the fighters were unable to cause any apparent damage to the huge object.

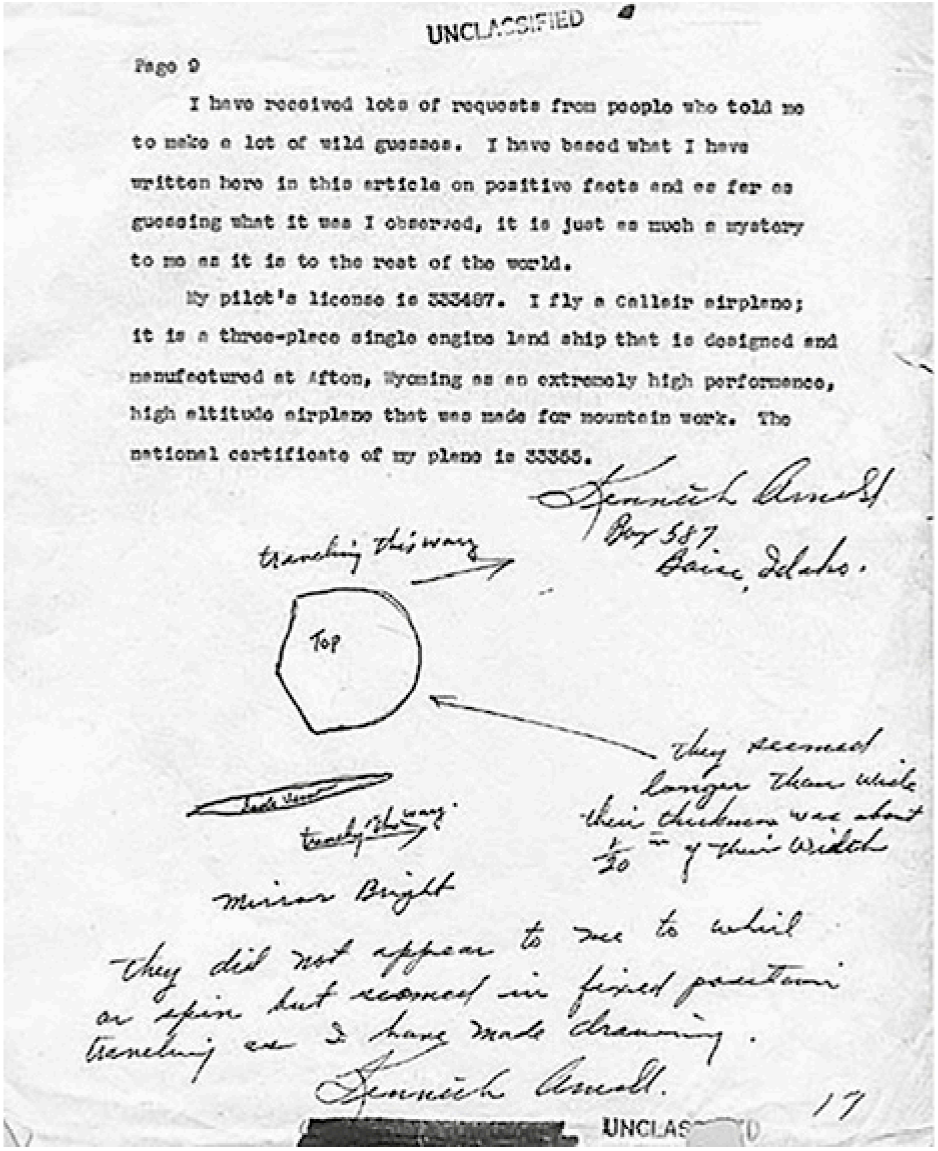
Some historians argue that the UFO sighted over Los Angeles on February 25, 1942, was an enormous Japanese Fugo balloon bomb. Constructed of rice paper and assembled by Japanese schoolgirls, the Fugo balloon bombs were directed into the jet stream that flows from Japan to America's Northwest. Almost four hundred Fugo balloons exploded in Alaska, California, Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado, causing minimal damage but killing at least six civilians.

However, following the Japanese surrender in 1945, no documents were found to indicate that a gigantic Fugo balloon had ever been sent to attack Los Angeles. Even if such a massive balloon had found its way to California, it seems beyond comprehension that a barrage of anti-aircraft fire and the firepower of several fighter planes could not have brought down a floating craft made of rice paper as it moved slowly across the city.

Although no bombs fell on the city, shell fragments raining down on homes, streets, and buildings killed six civilians throughout the Los Angeles area. In spite of official denials of the incident that were issued almost immediately, the Western Defense Command insisted that an unidentified aircraft had been sighted—and they had not been firing at a mass delusion.

For the official record and to calm the anxious population of the West Coast, Navy Secretary Frank Knox stated that no aircraft had been sighted, and he characterized the Los Angeles raid as a false alarm caused by war nerves.

LIKE SAUCERS SKIPPING ON WATER: JUNE 24, 1947


traveling this way
Top
Side view
traveling this way

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 9

I have received lots of requests from people who told me to make a lot of wild guesses. I have based what I have written here in this article on positive facts and as far as guessing what it was I observed, it is just as much a mystery to me as it is to the rest of the world.

My pilot's license is 333487. I fly a Callair airplane; it is a three-place single engine land ship that is designed and manufactured at Afton, Wyoming as an extremely high performance, high altitude airplane that was made for mountain work. The national certificate of my plane is 33365.

Kenneth Arnold
Box 587
Boise, Idaho.

they seemed longer than wide their thickness was about $\frac{1}{20}$ th of their width

Mirror Bright

They did not appear to me to whirl or spin but seemed in fixed position traveling as I have made drawing.

Kenneth Arnold.

17

[redacted] UNCLAS[illegible]D

Pilot Kenneth Arnold supplied Air Force Intelligence with drawings and a written report of what he witnessed about two weeks after the incident.

On June 24, 1947, at 2 P.M., Kenneth Arnold took off from the Chehalis, Washington, airport in his personal plane and headed for Yakima, Washington. He hadn't been in the air for more than three minutes when to the left and north of Mount Rainier he observed a chain of nine peculiar-looking objects flying from north to south at approximately 9,500 feet. He estimated the objects' size as about two-thirds as big as a DC-4 and their speed to be roughly 1,650 miles per hour.

In an interview, Arnold described the objects as appearing like saucers skipping on water. In what Edward R. Murrow later characterized as a "historic misquote," Arnold's description was shortened to "flying saucers" by newspapermen and resulted in the popular use of that term. By the end of 1947, there were over eight hundred other UFO sightings recorded across America.

The Air Force concluded that Arnold actually saw a mirage. But for many individuals around the world, the mysterious objects that Arnold sighted that day were extraterrestrial spacecraft.

ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO, JULY 2, 1947: THE MOTHER OF ALL UFO COVER-UPS

On the night of July 2, 1947—just eight days after Kenneth Arnold's sighting—it was reported that a UFO was reported to have crashed on ranchland about sixty miles north of Roswell, New Mexico, and that the Air Force had recovered the wreckage. The next day those startling media pronouncements were contradicted. The Air Force had apparently been mistaken. The supposed UFO was merely the scattered debris from a fallen weather balloon.

For some people reading about the Air Force's denial of their having captured a flying saucer, the matter ended with a wry smile at the inefficiency of the military. Others wondered how highly trained Air Force personnel could possibly mistake a few thin sticks and scraps of cloth for any kind of aeronautical vehicle, to say nothing of an extraterrestrial craft capable of traversing the universe.

That is how what happened in Roswell became the seed of nearly every UFO government-cover-up conspiracy theory that still thrives today. In many ways 1947 provided the ideal soil for such theories to germinate. It was almost exactly two years since atomic bombs destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Even though the bombs may have ended World War II, atomic power still frightened most Americans. Also at that time, many doomsayers were frightening audiences with grim messages that the world was about to come to an end.

Adding to the stress coursing through America was the fact that the Soviet Union had erected the so-called Iron Curtain, adding anxiety about a new Cold War before the world could even process the horrors of the Third Reich. In fact, many military officers said that the flying saucers were a new secret weapon launched against the United States by diehard Nazis hiding in South America. Other people in "the know" claimed that the bizarre circular craft were new weapons that had been created by the German scientists kidnapped by the Soviets.

REVERSE ENGINEERING AT AREA 51

After government agencies cleaned up the crash fragments and the alien corpses outside of Roswell, the bodies were taken to Hangar 18 and the bits of extraterrestrial technology were taken to hidden hangers at Groom Lake, a secret base in the Nevada desert. In 1989 a former government scientist named Bob Lazar broke his silence and revealed that he had worked on alien technology at a facility in Area 51. According to him, not only had scientists been able to reverse-engineer alien technology and create top-secret aerial vehicles for the Air Force, but hidden hangars concealed as many as nine extraterrestrial space craft.

MAJESTIC-12

In 1987, UFO researchers Jamie Shandera, Stanton Friedman, and William Moore released shocking findings. According to them, in 1947 President Harry Truman created a secret council known as Majestic-12 to keep him appraised of the progress of alien activity on Earth. While the governments of Earth officially deny the existence of UFOs to prevent panic among the masses, the chief executives are well aware of the existence of extraterrestrial involvement in world affairs.

While the governments of Earth officially deny the existence of UFOs to prevent panic among the masses, the chief executives are well aware of the existence of extraterrestrial involvement in world affairs.

Other UFOlogists claimed to have discovered that a secret arm of the U.S. government, in association with the Illuminati, made a deal with the alien invaders to trade advanced extraterrestrial technology for such Earth resources as water, minerals, cattle—and certain of its citizens. In this theory, UFO abductions are conducted by aliens as a species-monitoring program, with physical examinations of humans and crossbreeding attempts involving preselected men and women allowed by the U.S. government as a treaty concession.

UFOs BUZZ THE WHITE HOUSE

On July 26, 1952, UFOs made national headlines when they were sighted over Washington, D.C. The mysterious objects were detected on civilian and military radar screens, and fighter planes were dispatched to investigate. The *New York Times*’ headline read: “Air Force Reveals Reports of Something, Perhaps ‘Saucers,’ Traveling Slowly But Jumping Up and Down.” Exactly fifty years later to the day, July 26, 2002, the North American Aerospace Defense Command scrambled two Air National Guard F-16 jets out of Andrews Air Force Base to investigate unknown aerial craft over the nation’s capital. On each occasion, the UFO raid was explained as a natural phenomenon.

AFTER FIFTY YEARS, THE AIR FORCE ADMITS A COVER-UP-OF A BALLOON

On June 24, 1997—the fiftieth anniversary of Kenneth Arnold’s sighting of the flying saucers in Washington State—the United States Air Force conducted a special Pentagon briefing and announced its answer to the charges of a conspiracy at Roswell in the document *The Roswell Report: Case Closed*. The debris found at the crash site outside of Roswell were fragments from a balloon from Project Mogul, a top-secret postwar intelligence program to monitor the Soviets’ nuclear program. Therefore, their explanation went, the cover-up had been necessary for purposes of national security.

The Air Force report went on to state that the alleged bodies seen around the crash site were human-sized dummies used in experiments with high-altitude parachutes. After each of the experimental drops, which had begun in 1953, Air Force personnel would retrieve the simulated human forms. Apparently, folks around Roswell got the idea that they had observed military personnel picking up alien bodies.

UFO researchers scorned these explanations. They wondered how witnesses who saw the wreckage of a flying saucer and the bodies of its alien crew in 1947 could have confused the event with the discovery of dummies dropped over the desert near Roswell in 1953.

The Air Force had an answer for that mystery as well. The seeming six-year discrepancy between the events was a manifestation of the mental phenomenon of "time compression." This occurs when a person's memory splices events separated by many years into "compressed" segments of time. Civilians who witnessed the crash site of a weather balloon in 1947 and six years later saw Air Force personnel retrieving crash dummies dropped from the skies, recalled the two events as one in their compressed memories.

The official Air Force explanation from *The Roswell Report: Case Closed* failed to quell accusations of a government cover-up. Since then, Roswell has become a mecca for UFO believers from all over the world. The city even hosts an annual celebration to honor the alleged crash of the flying saucer in the desert.

UFOs, SECRET SOCIETIES, AND THE APOCALYPSE

As the year 2000 grew nearer, many fundamentalist religious leaders became increasingly concerned about the approaching Millennium and the potential they saw for Armageddon: the great final battle between good and evil prophesized in the Christian Bible. This created a suspicious mind-set that had many members of these religious groups identifying aliens on UFOs as actually Satan's minions gathering to fight the forces of good.

Several fundamentalist Christian evangelists began to blend newer accounts of UFOs with centuries-old fears of secret societies. According to them, top U.S. government officials, politicians, corporate chairmen, and international bankers were working behind the scenes to create a dreaded "New World Order." Rumors spread in evangelical circles that extraterrestrials and their human allies in these secret societies had made a plan: Shortly before the year 2000 a carefully staged false alien invasion would frighten the masses of Earth into thinking they were under attack from outer space, making them more likely to believe their leaders who advised that unconditional surrender to the aliens was for everyone's own good.

According to this rumor, immediately following their betrayal of Earth to the aliens, the treacherous human leaders would form a One World Government or New World Order, thus fulfilling biblical prophecies about a return to the days of Babylon. The aliens would reveal themselves as demonic entities, and the planet would be in torment until Jesus returned to deal the final blow to the armies of evil.

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC DOESN'T BUY THE UFO COVER-UP

In June 1998 a CNN/Time poll found that 27 percent of Americans believed aliens had already visited Earth, and 80 percent maintained the government was covering up the truth of extraterrestrial visitation. On June 8, 1999, a National Institute of Science/Roper Poll surveyed a nationwide sampling of men and women and found that 25 percent believed UFOs to be alien spacecraft, with another 12 percent thinking they were vehicles of a secret government agency.

THE MILITARY WAS ALREADY LOOKING INTO UFOs

In 2017, it was revealed that the Pentagon had created their own UFO investigation called the Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program (AATIP). As can be gleaned from the project's name, the primary impetus behind the research—some of which delved into arcane topics such as "warp drives"—was to study whether the dozens of sightings of "unidentified aerial phenomena" recorded by the military was evidence of national security rivals like China or Russia having developed advanced propulsion systems.

Luis Elizondo, a former overseas military intelligence operative who worked with AATIP explained the Pentagon's concerns to *60 Minutes*:

"Imagine a technology that can do 6-to-700 g-forces, that can fly at 13,000 miles an hour, that can evade radar and that can fly through air and water and possibly space. And oh, by the way, has no obvious signs of propulsion, no wings, no control surfaces and yet still can defy the natural effects of Earth's gravity. That's precisely what we're seeing."

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The Pentagon officially acknowledged in 2020 that four videos taken by U.S. Navy pilots in 2004, 2014, and 2015 are authentic "unidentified aerial phenomena" (UAPs).

Among the previously secret records that were declassified concerned a 2004 sighting of what the military calls "unidentified aerial phenomena" (UAPs) by the USS *Nimitz* carrier strike group, which was training about a hundred miles off San Diego. Two F-18 fighters were dispatched after radar spotted multiple UAPs doing strange things, like dropping 80,000 feet in under a second. The fighter crews spotted a large patch of churned-up water and a white fighter plane-sized object shaped like a Tic-Tac with no visible wings or propulsion. The UAP hovered around briefly and then disappeared moving at an incredible rate of speed.

According to some in the military, in recent years they have been spotting UAPs off America's shores nearly constantly.

The AATIP was similar in some respects to 1947's Project Sign, a classified study that began after the Army's Lt. General Nathan Twining wrote a secret memo about his encounter with "a group of disc-like aircraft." Based out of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Project Sign was tasked with investigating whether UFO sightings were proof that the Soviets had created flying saucers that did not obey the laws of any know aerial technology. Its research was later folded into Project Blue Book, whose efforts at studying aerial phenomena has been viewed by many UFO researchers as inadequate at best and at worst another attempt by the military to deliberately obscure the truth.

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UFO RESEARCHERS' MYSTERIOUS DEATHS

Whether it is a fatal visit from the Men in Black or a secret government agency, some UFO researchers have found that investigating flying saucers can be a dangerous business.

With all the paranoia about secret military cover-ups of the UFO mystery and whispered fears about the Men in Black (MIB), some researchers have claimed that a number of UFO witnesses and investigators actually have met their demise at the hands of unknown and mysterious assailants. In 1971 the author-researcher Otto Binder wrote an article for *Saga* magazine's "Special UFO Report" titled "Liquidation of the UFO Investigators." Binder claimed to have researched the deaths of 137 flying saucer researchers, writers, scientists, and witnesses who had died in the previous ten years—many, Binder emphasized, under the most mysterious circumstances.

UFO researcher-author G. Cope Schellhorn has been tabulating the deaths of UFOlogists from "unusual cancers, heart attacks, questionable suicides, and all manner of strange happenings" since 1997. Admittedly, some of the researchers on Schellhorn's and other investigators' lists were older, ill, depressed, or suicidal. Still, where there is smoke, there may be a MIB. Here are some of the names on the UFO researchers' death list:

M. K. Jessup, 1959: Astronomer and archaeologist Jessup, well-known author of such influential works as *The Case for the UFO* (1955), allegedly committed suicide in Dade County Park, Florida, in 1959. Certain facts about the case have long troubled researchers: Contrary to Florida law, no autopsy was performed; a police officer on the scene shortly after Jessup's body was discovered said that everything about the setup seemed too professional; Jessup had been investigating the mysterious Philadelphia Experiment in invisibility at the time of his death.

Frank Edwards, 1967: A noted news commentator, Edwards died of an alleged heart attack on June 24, 1967, the twentieth anniversary of the Kenneth Arnold sighting. The "World UFO Conference" was being held in New York City that same day in June. The conference's chair, UFO publisher and author Gray Barker, stated he had received two letters and a telephone call threatening that Edwards would not be alive by the conference's end.

Dr. James McDonald, 1971: A senior physicist at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics and professor in the Department of Meteorology at the University of Arizona, McDonald supposedly died of a gunshot wound to the head. McDonald had worked hard in the 1960s to convince Congress to hold serious, substantial subcommittee meetings to explore the UFO reality.

Ivan T. Sanderson, 1973: Well-known naturalist, zoologist, UFO investigator, and author of all things mysterious, Sanderson died of a rapidly spreading cancer.

Philip K. Dick, 1982: Cult science-fiction author (*A Scanner Darkly*, *Minority Report*), was a silent contactee of some higher intelligence for many years. At the time he died of a stroke under somewhat mysterious circumstances, Dick was writing a nonfiction book about his experiences with alien contact.

Capt. Don Elkin, 1984: A professor of physics and mechanical engineering, as well as an Eastern Airlines pilot, Elkin had been investigating UFOs since 1948. He was deep into the study of the Ra material, alleged extraterrestrial communications channeled by Carla Rueckert, at the time of his suicide.

Dr. Allen J. Hynek, 1986: Despite his advanced age, when famous astronomer and Project Blue Book consultant Hynek died from to a brain tumor it suspicious to many. Supposedly in the hospital for prostate surgery, Hynek's death seems all the stranger when one considers the high number of UFO investigators who have died of brain tumors or cancer. Those who knew Hynek well recall that he seemed troubled over some recently acquired data shortly before his fatal hospital stay.

Mae Brussell, 1988: A gutsy, no-holds-barred investigative radio host, Brussell was acutely interested in UFOs as well as the dangers of the New World Order. She died of a fast-acting cancer.

Deke Slayton, 1993: Deke Slayton, the astronaut, was purportedly ready to talk about his UFO experiences, but cancer also intervened.

Ron Rummel, 1993: Ron Rummel, former Air Force intelligence agent and publisher of *Alien Digest*, allegedly shot himself in the mouth with a pistol on August 6, 1993.

Ann Livingston, 1994: Ann Livingston made her living as an accountant, but she was also an investigator for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON). On December 29, 1992, Livingston claimed to have accosted by five MIB whom she described as being almost faceless and carrying long, flashlight-like black objects. In early 1994 she died of a fast-acting form of ovarian cancer.

Karla Turner, 1996: The author of abduction books *Masquerade of Angels*, *Taken*, and *Into the Fringe* suspected that the breast cancer that preceded her death was due to alien retaliation for statements she made in print.

Ron Johnson, 1994: On June 9, 1994, while attending a Society of Scientific Exploration meeting in Austin, Texas, Johnson—MUFON's deputy director of investigations, who was forty-three and in excellent health—died quickly and amid very strange circumstances. When the lights were turned back on after a slide presentation, Johnson was slumped over in his chair, his face purple, blood oozing from his nose. A soda can, from which he had been sipping, was sitting on the chair next to him.

Phil Schneider, 1996: Schneider died on January 17, 1996, allegedly strangled by a catheter found wrapped around his neck. Schneider claimed to have worked in 13 of the 129 deep underground facilities the U.S. government constructed after World War II. One of these bases was the bioengineering facility at Dulce, New Mexico, where according to Schneider, humanoid extraterrestrials worked side by side with American technicians.

Steven Schiff, 1998: New Mexico Congressman and Air Force Reserve colonel Schiff made news in 1993 when he reopened a federal investigation into the 1947 Roswell crash, seeking related Air Force documents. Some UFOlogists found it suspicious that after Schiff spent years digging into this issue, he suddenly died of cancer.

Jim Keith, 1999: Author of many books including *Mind Control/World Control*, Jim Keith died in hospital during surgery to repair a broken leg he suffered while attending the infamous Burning Man Festival in Nevada. Allegedly, a blood clot was released during the surgery and traveled to the heart, causing a pulmonary edema.

William Cooper, 2001: Author of the classic book *Behold a Pale Horse*, shortwave radio talk show host, UFO researcher, and political activist, Cooper was shot dead during a gun battle with sheriff's deputies at his home in Eagar, Arizona.

Ron Bonds, 2001: Bonds of IllumiNet Press published books on unsolved mysteries and unexplained phenomena that ranged from the Kennedy assassination to the black helicopters of the New World Order. In April 2001, fifteen hours after eating at a Mexican restaurant in Atlanta, Bonds was taken to Grady Memorial Hospital, where he died. His death was attributed to a bacterium that figures in 250,000 cases of food poisoning a year—of which, according to the Center for Disease Control, only seven result in death.

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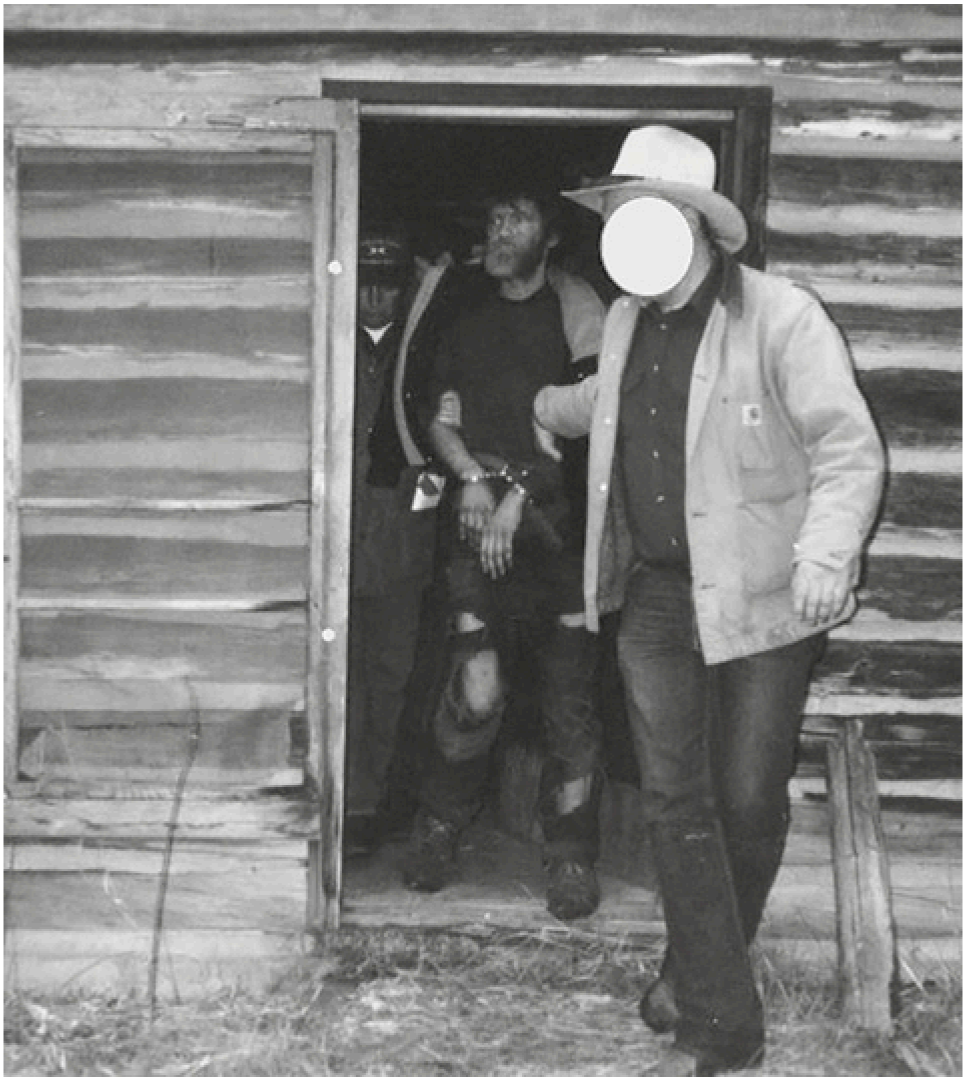
UNABOMBER AND THE HARVARD DRUG EXPERIMENTS

If Theodore Kaczynski was only one of many who volunteered for the Harvard experiments in mind control, we could have a lot of Unabombers waiting to explode.

In 1957 a thirty-seven-year-old Ph.D. in psychology named Timothy Leary read an article by R. Gordon Wasson on entheogens in indigenous Mexican religious ceremonies and made the decision to travel to Mexico and experiment with psilocybin mushrooms. It was a decision that altered Leary's life and the lives of millions of others. Upon Leary's return to Harvard, he began the Harvard Psilocybin Project with Dr. Richard Alpert (who would later be known as Ram Dass) and other colleagues.

Leary began experimenting with LSD. He became convinced that properly administered dosages could alter behavior in many beneficial ways, including by producing profound mystical and spiritual experiences. Another of Leary's colleagues at Harvard who was soliciting volunteers among the students for experiments was Dr. Henry A. Murray, a psychiatrist who had been a lieutenant colonel in World War II and had devised special tests that the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) used in selecting agents.



A former assistant math professor, Ted Kaczynski (shown here being arrested) became the Unabomber and killed three people. Did he quit his promising career in academia as a result of being a subject in an LSD experiment?

Among the students who volunteered for Murray's experiments at Harvard was a brilliant young man named Theodore Kaczynski, who had entered the university when he was not quite sixteen. George Piranian, one of Kaczynski's professors at the University of Michigan, where he did postgraduate work, later said calling Kaczynski highly intelligent was an understatement; the young man earned his Ph.D. by solving in less than a year a problem in mathematics that Piranian himself had never been able to crack. Maxwell O. Reade, a mathematics professor who served on Kaczynski's dissertation committee at Michigan, speculated that there were probably only ten to twelve people in the United States who could understand Kaczynski's specialty, a branch of complex analysis known as geometric function theory. Kaczynski would later hold a National Science Foundation fellowship and publish six articles in mathematic journals. Theodore "Ted" Kaczynski seemed destined for high-level academic success. Those who have researched his case in depth have suggested that had he not volunteered for those experiments in mind control at Harvard, he might not have become the infamous "Unabomber."

An interesting mix of scientist and humanist, Murray freely discussed his apprehensions about living in a nuclear age. Believing humankind's best chance for survival would be under a single world government, he had become convinced that he had a special mission to transform individuals from their nationalistic indoctrination as National Man into World Man. The interplay between two individuals, which he viewed as a “dyad,” could be made to bridge psychology and sociology and create a unit that would be able to survive in the new world.

Murray had developed a system used by the OSS to select agents who could withstand torture and interrogation. It involved a test that often left the applicants crying and broken. The experiments in which Kaczynski participated were even more elaborate than the ones devised by Murray for the OSS in wartime. The subjects were bound to chairs, wired with electrodes and various monitoring devices, and subjected to total darkness, blinding lights, highly personal verbal attacks—and doses of LSD.

The program was under the direction of Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, also the leader of the CIA’s MK-ULTRA project in mind control. Because records for all 150 of MK-Ultra’s projects were ordered destroyed in 1972 by CIA director Richard Helms, researchers cannot evaluate the effects Murray’s experiments had on Kaczynski or any other participants. But many investigators have theorized that Kaczynski became essentially a ticking time bomb.

Kaczynski was as unsocial as he was brilliant. He was shy, aloof, and withdrawn, even in the company of friends and neighbors. After receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and being recognized as a gifted mathematician, Kaczynski obtained a position as assistant professor of mathematics at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1967. He had few faculty friends, and his aloof and reserved manner caused students to give him poor ratings as a teacher. Still, Kaczynski’s impressive academic credentials and publications would have made tenure easily attainable. But in 1969, Kaczynski resigned without explanation. In 1971 he moved to Great Falls, Montana, and began building a cabin near Lincoln, eighty miles southwest of Great Falls, on some land that he and his brother David had acquired.

Like many intellectuals before him, Kaczynski sought personal transformation in nature. He would be another Henry David Thoreau, living alone in his own version of Walden Pond. In his solitude, Kaczynski had lots of time to reflect upon the evils of contemporary society and to consider Dr. Murray’s fears about living in a nuclear age and surviving as World Man, rather than as National Man.

Kaczynski mailed the first bomb to Professor Buckley Crist at Northwestern University on May 1978. A campus police officer sustained minor injury when he opened the package.

The FBI became involved in 1979 after the second bomb was found smoking in the cargo hold of a commercial airplane before it could explode. A faulty timing mechanism prevented the bomb from detonating, but investigators said that it contained enough explosives to have blown the plane to bits—along with its passengers and crew. FBI agents searching for a disgruntled airline employee, but John Douglas, the father of the FBI’s criminal profiling unit, assessed the sophistication of the device as the work of a “disgruntled academic,” rather than an airline mechanic seeking revenge against a former employer.

The first death resulted from the fourth bomb, which exploded in the parking lot of a California computer store in 1985, killing the owner with nail and

splinter projectiles.

The third bomb caused the first serious injury. In 1985, a Berkeley graduate student who had just been accepted for astronaut training lost four fingers and vision in one eye because of the blast.

The first death resulted from the fourth bomb, which exploded in the parking lot of a California computer store in 1985, killing the owner with nail and splinter projectiles. In Salt Lake City on February 20, 1987, a similar bomb detonated near a computer store, but no one was injured. Each of these bombs bore the inscription "FC," which investigators first interpreted as "F— —k Computers," but which was later revealed to stand for "Freedom Club."

There were no more bombs until 1993, when Kaczynski mailed another potentially fatal package, this time to Yale computer science professor David Gelernter, who escaped injury. Later that year, geneticist Charles Epstein was maimed by the bomb that he received.

Kaczynski wrote to the *New York Times*, claiming to be the leader of an anarchist group called the "Freedom Club" and accepting responsibility for the bombings. In 1994, an advertising executive was killed by a mail bomb, and a subsequent letter by Kaczynski justified the assassination by condemning the public relations field for manipulating people to obey the wills of the advertisers and to buy things that they don't really need.

In 1995, shortly after the murder of Gilbert Murray, president of the California Forestry Association, the Unabomber began mailing letters, some to his former victims, explaining his goals and demanding that newspapers print his 35,000-word manifesto "Industrial Society and Its Future." The Unabomber threatened to send more bombs unless his manifesto appeared in print. He promised to cease his campaign of terror if his philosophy could be made known to the general public.

In September 1995 the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* published the Unabomber's thesis word for word as he had written it. The authorities had encouraged the newspapers to present the Unabomber's work verbatim not only to appease him, but also in the hope that someone would recognize his writing style and phraseology.

Among Kaczynski's main points were the following:

- The Industrial Revolution and its technological legacy have been a disaster for the human race. The resulting system suppresses human freedom, destroys nature, and makes the individual exist to serve the system.
- Modern technology is undesirable, and it should be halted so that people can return to a simpler, happier lifestyle living next to nature.
- A collapse of the technological society is inevitable, so it would be best to bring about a "social crash" as soon as possible.
- There should be no illusions about creating an ideal society; the goal should be only to destroy the existing form of society.
- If revolutionaries do not destroy the present form of society, the future will see the common people surviving as "house pets" or slaves to an elite class of humans or to intelligent machines.

After an eighteen-year-manhunt (the largest in FBI history), three deaths and twenty-nine wounded, Kaczynski was arrested outside his remote Montana cabin on April 3, 1996. His brother David had recognized his writing style and notified the authorities. Although David had received assurances that Ted would never know that his own brother had turned him in to the FBI, the information was leaked to the press. The Kaczynski family was also betrayed when the prosecutors had promised them that they would not seek the death penalty. Ted managed to avoid the sentence of death by pleading guilty on January 22, 1998, and he was delivered to the federal ADX supermax prison in Florence, Colorado, to serve life without the possibility of parole. David donated the reward money, minus his legal expenses, to the families of the Unabomber's victims.

It is well known today that Murray and Gottlieb conducted mind-control tests that flagrantly violated medical ethics. What is not known is how many other "Unabombers" might be triggered some day by an insidious posthypnotic suggestion planted in a student's psyche years ago.

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UNDERGROUND UFO BASES

Some UFO investigators warn us to forget about the lights in the skies. The real danger from alien invasion is under our feet.

Although UFO researchers insist that there are underground alien bases in Nevada, Arizona, California, Wisconsin, Colorado, and many other areas, the alleged underground facility outside Dulce, New Mexico, is by far the most notorious. According to many UFO investigators, there are men and women who claim to have worked in these facilities side by side with extraterrestrials nicknamed "Grays."

The Grays are most often described as being under four feet tall, with disproportionately large heads and large slanted eyes. They all seem to worship technology at the expense of artistic and creative expression. They also seem devoid of emotion and appear indifferent to the general well-being of humans. The witnesses who claim to have worked aside Grays, state that the principal research at Dulce is the study of human genetics and the possibility of crossbreeding the two species and/or developing mutations.

Aliens known as the Grays could be lurking beneath our feet in underground bases, but worse than this is that the U.S. military might be dealing with them in secret.

A frequently heard account about Dulce concerns a 1969 confrontation that broke out between the human scientists working there and the aliens. In order to guarantee extended cooperation from the secret government, the Grays took a number of human scientists as hostages.

Elite soldiers were sent into the vast underground tunnels to rescue the scientists, but they proved to be no match for the aliens. Estimates of sixty-six to several hundred humans were killed during the violent confrontation.

Because of the sudden realization that the Grays could not always be trusted to follow other than their own secret agenda, the representatives and employees of the secret government withdrew from all joint projects with the Grays for about two years. Eventually a reconciliation occurred, and the alliance between the aliens and the members of the secret government was once again back on course.

Some of the aliens who work in the underground bases consider themselves to be native Earthlings, for they are the crossbred descendants of a reptilian humanoid species, who many thousands of years ago accomplished genetic engineering with early members of Homo sapiens. While some of these crossbred reptilian-human "Terrans" are loyal allies, others of their group have proven to be untrustworthy mercenary agents for the Draco, an extraterrestrial race that is returning to Earth—a planet they consider their ancient outpost.

In addition to a number of reported “Hairy Dwarfs” and exceedingly tall alien life forms, the most commonly mentioned extraterrestrial biological entities (EBEs) next to the Grays are the “Nordics,” essentially human in appearance, mostly blond-haired and blue-eyed. Cast in an angelic kind of role in the alien versus human drama, they normally do not violate the intergalactic law of noninterference so they cannot halt the occasional grisly machinations of the Grays. Unless, of course, the Grays finally go too far and begin to upset the larger picture of universal balance and order.

Research scientist Paul Bennewitz claims to have been repeatedly harassed and intimidated by the military after providing government investigators with proof that he had filmed a formation of UFOs flying over the Manzano Weapons Storage Area and the Coyote Canyon Test Site (where nuclear materials are stored), all part of the Kirtland Air Force Base facilities in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Bennewitz said he saw four saucer-shaped objects lined up beside the fence of the air base.

What shocked Lear was that the government had made secret deals with the aliens, actually exchanging humans for advanced technical data.

Bennewitz’s investigations led him to Dulce, where he spoke with a woman who was kidnapped by aliens after she and her son had witnessed them mutilating a cow. According to the abductee, she and her son were taken inside the Dulce underground base, where they saw horrible experiments in which organs and blood were being removed from animals to create a new species of humanoids through gene splicing.

John Lear is a pilot and son of famous aviation pioneer William Lear, who established the Lear Aircraft Company. Before hearing a friend relate a UFO encounter that had taken place in England, Lear had absolutely no interest in flying saucers. However, as he began to check out the accounts others had relayed to him, he was astonished to find there was mountains of evidence proving that UFOs are real and quite likely from outer space.

Pursuing the subject with his contacts in the CIA and his informants in military intelligence, Lear ascertained that the first UFO crash occurred in Germany shortly before World War II. The Nazis used the technology obtained from the wreckage to initiate the rocketry program that destroyed much of Europe and blitzed the British Isles.

Later, Lear was told, after a flying disc crashed near Roswell, New Mexico, one of the injured crew was kept alive for a short period of time at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base’s Hangar 18.

What shocked Lear was that the government had made secret deals with the aliens, actually exchanging humans for advanced technical data. By 1987 Lear had discovered that the EBEs were creating a sort of “Frankenstein Army—part alien, part human” in underground facilities in Nevada and New Mexico.

Lear’s painstaking research yielded grisly evidence that human, as well as cattle, mutilations had been performed by the aliens as early as 1956. An Air Force major had witnessed the abduction of a sergeant early one morning at the White Sands Missile Test

Range. When the sergeant's body was found three days later, his genitals, eyes, and rectum had all been removed. His corpse had also been drained of all blood. Informants with knowledge of the Dulce base detailed large vats with pale meat being agitated in solutions and large test tubes with humans in them.

In Lear's assessment the alien abduction scenario seemed to have at least three purposes: (1) insertion of a tiny probe, approximately three millimeters in size that would monitor and program the abductee; (2) posthypnotic suggestions regarding the abductee's future mission; and (3) genetic crossbreeding between the EBEs and humans.

William Hamilton, author of *Cosmic Top Secret* (2002), first received news of the existence of the secret underground bases in 1979 when an acquaintance who was a government worker revealed the details of military participation in monstrous genetic experiments being conducted with a sinister group of aliens. When his employers discovered that the man had stolen photographs depicting these experiments, his wife and children were taken into custody by federal agents to convince him to return the classified material.

Hamilton's friend told him that the base at which he had been employed had at least seven subterranean levels. On level four, for example, advanced research in mind control was being conducted. At level six, genetic experiments on animals and humans were in progress. Humans were kept in cages and drugged for some detestable purpose on level seven.

Hamilton's informant had originally been told a false story that the government was conducting special secret tests to cure insanity, but when he realized at last that aliens were actually behind the torturous experiments, he left his post and went into hiding.

Hamilton cautions against panic, observing that "aliens have been around a long time and have not taken any mass offensive against us to date." Hamilton's greatest concern "is the fact that excessive secrecy [on the part of the government] can lead to a breakdown in our cultural cohesiveness. It can lead to wild rumors and freewheeling speculations. It can lead to ignorance and the disintegration of our society."

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UNDERSEA UFO BASES

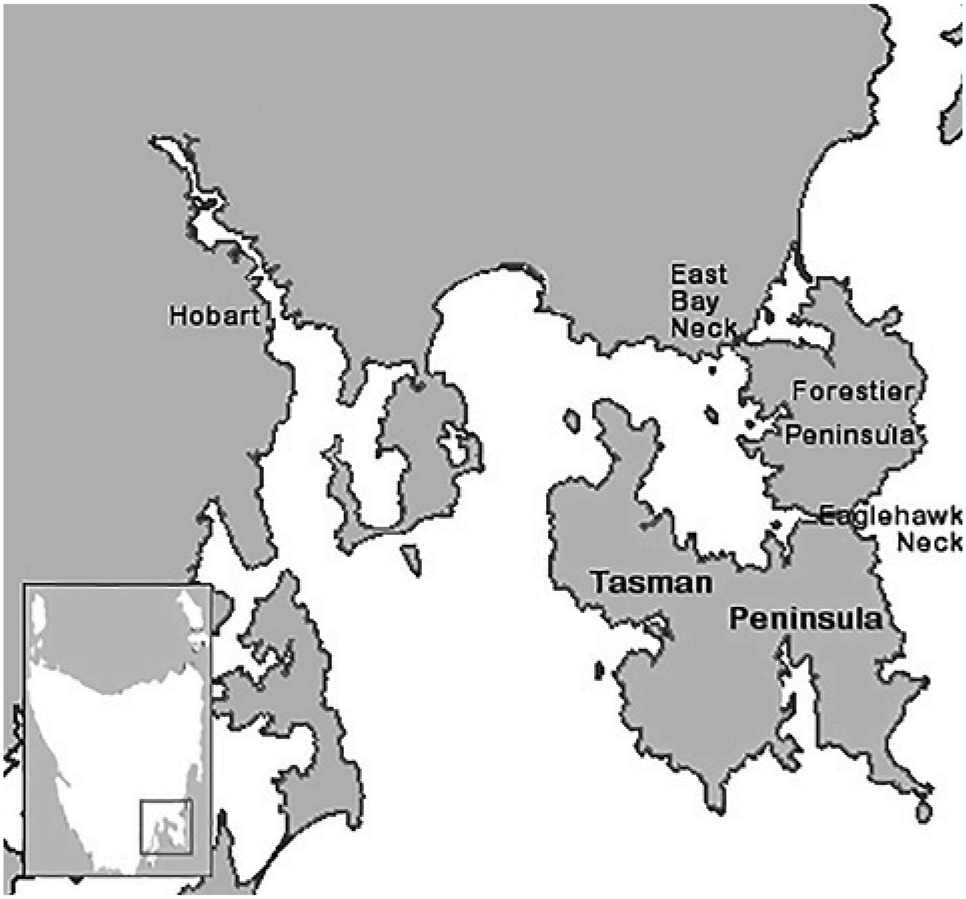
Long before the alleged UFO crash at Roswell in 1947, people have witnessed strange lights and machines entering and leaving Earth's seas.

In mid-February 1942, five years before UFOs were brought into modern mass consciousness by Kenneth Arnold's sighting of flying saucers near Mount Rainier and the alien spaceship crash outside of Roswell, Lt. William Brennan of the Royal Australian Air Force sighted a mysterious aerial craft while on patrol over the Bass Strait south of Melbourne, Australia. Brennan was on the lookout for Japanese submarines or long-range German U-boats. Fishermen in the area had reported mysterious lights bobbing on the sea at night, and after the Japanese attack on Darwin on February 19, the Allied High Command was urging the strictest vigilance.

The air patrol was flying a few miles east of the Tasman Peninsula in Tasmania off the coast of Australia about 5:50 P.M. on a sunny evening when a strange, glistening bronze-colored aircraft suddenly emerged from a cloud bank near them. The object was about 150 feet long and approximately 50 feet in diameter. Lt. Brennan saw that the peculiar craft had a dome or cupola on its upper surface, and he thought that he might have seen someone inside wearing a helmet. There were occasional greenish-blue flashes emanating from its keel, four finlike appendages on its underside, and Brennan was astonished to see what appeared to be the bizarre image of a grinning Cheshire cat framed in a white circle on the front of the dome. The unidentified aerial craft flew parallel to the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) patrol for several minutes, then it abruptly turned away and dived straight down into the Pacific. Brennan emphasized that the craft made a dive, not a crash, into the ocean.

According to UFO researchers, Brennan may have reported an early sighting of a craft returning to an extraterrestrial or a secret terrestrial undersea base. While there are numerous witnesses who claim to have seen UFOs ascending from underground bases, there are also a vast number of reports from those who have witnessed strange unidentified submarine objects (USOs) entering and leaving large bodies of water. In other instances, scientific expeditions have encountered mysterious underwater objects that belonged to no known terrestrial source.

Early in February 1960 the Argentine navy, with the assistance of United States advisers, after discovering at least two mystery submarines lurking in the southern bay of Golfo Nuevo, tried to flush them out with depth charges. Easily outrunning and hiding from the surface vessels for several days, the submarines escaped despite the best efforts of Argentine ships and planes using the most modern U.S. sub hunting technology.



The Tasman Peninsula is in Tasmania, a large island southeast of Australia. It was here that an RAAF patrol spotted what looked like UFO activity during World War II.

On January 12, 1965, Captain K, an airline pilot on a flight between Whenuapai and Kaitaia, New Zealand, spotted a USO when crossing over Kaipara Harbor. Veering his DC-3 for a closer look at what looked at first like a stranded gray-white whale, he realized it was actually a perfectly streamlined and symmetrical metallic structure with what looked like a hatch on top. He estimated its length to be approximately a hundred feet with a diameter of fifteen feet at its widest part. It was later determined that the surrounding mud flats and mangrove swamps made the spot where Captain K saw his USO inaccessible to any known submarine.

On July 5, 1965, Dr. Dmitri Rebikoff, a marine scientist making preparations to explore the Gulf Stream's depths, found himself faced with a most unusual challenge when he detected and attempted to photograph a fast-moving USO on the bottom of the warm water stream that flows from the Florida Keys to Newfoundland and onward to northern Europe. Dr. Rebikoff told Captain L. Jacques Nicholas, project coordinator, that the object was pear-shaped and moving at approximately three and one-half knots.

The peculiar object was moving beneath various schools of fish, and at first, judging from its size, Dr. Rebikoff thought it to be a large shark. As he monitored it, however, he noted that the USO's direction and speed were too constant. The marine scientist theorized that the object was mechanical and running on robot pilot, but since they were unable to receive any signal from the USO, he really had no idea what it might have been.

The Argentine steamer *Naviero* was some 120 miles off the coast of Brazil on the night of July 30, 1967. Captain Julian Lucas Ardanza was enjoying his evening meal when an officer called him on the intercom to report something strange near the ship. Once on deck, Ardanza saw a shining, cigar-shaped object about 50 feet off the *Naviero*'s starboard side. Looking to be about 110 feet long, the noiseless and blue-and-white-glowing submarine had no periscope, railing, tower, or superstructure. Ardanza said that he had never seen anything like it. Chief Officer Carlos Lasca ventured that the object was a submersible UFO with a brilliant source of illumination. The seamen estimated the craft's speed at twenty-five knots, as opposed to the *Naviero*'s seventeen. After pacing the Argentine steamer for fifteen minutes, the USO suddenly submerged, passed directly under the *Naviero*, and disappeared into the depths of the ocean, glowing while it dove deeper and deeper.

On October 3, 1967, at Shag Harbor in Nova Scotia, a sixty-foot-long object with a series of bright portholes was sighted floating in the harbor and then diving beneath the surface. Within twenty minutes, several Royal Canadian Mounted Police constables were heading in boat to the spot where the object had been spotted. A Coast Guard boat and eight fishing vessels joined the constables in time to observe a large path of yellowish foam and bubbling water. Divers from the Royal Canadian Navy searched the area for two days but found no physical evidence of any kind.

In December 1997 a massive craft was seen emerging from the sea next to an oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico. According to engineer Jeremy Packer, at about 7:58 A.M., the rig's workers heard a frightening rumbling. Looking toward the west, they sighted twenty-five to thirty helicopters on maneuvers. This was not unusual, Packer said, except that the platform had not received the usual alert regarding Coast Guard maneuvers. Then, according to Packer, they saw something that changed their lives. All the helicopters stopped in midair and a massive metal cigar-shaped object about as long as two football fields and encircled by beautiful lights of every color imaginable surfaced beneath them. The craft soared straight into the air, where it hovered above the helicopters for about two minutes. Then, as if someone had turned off a light switch, it disappeared.

In 2014, radio host Jimmy Church claimed to have discovered evidence on Google Earth of a massive oval-shaped underwater alien base several miles off the Malibu coast. UFO writer and former resident of Malibu Robert Stanley supported the idea, saying that he had seen USOs offshore multiple times.

Why all the underwater bases? One theory was proposed by Dr. Roger W. Wescott, chairman of the anthropology department at Drew University. In his 1969 book *The Divine Animal*, he argued that extraterrestrials had landed on Earth ten thousand years ago. They had fully intended to teach humankind a better way of life. But when Earth's dominant species continued to demonstrate its avaricious and destructive nature, the extraterrestrials gave up in disgust and withdrew to establish undersea bases. Although these cosmic tutors were temporarily thwarted in their attempts to build a better world here on Earth, they did not give up hope, emerging from time to time to conduct certain spot checks to see if humans are becoming less barbaric. Such monitoring forays explain the sightings of UFOs which have been reported for thousands of years.

Wescott also suggests that when the UFOnauts withdrew from the Earth's surface, they took some humans along with them to train and tutor. He conjectures that some specially tutored humans might have been returned to the surface to become leaders. Some worked to change humankind for good (Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad among their numbers), while others (Genghis Khan, Attila the Hun), corrupted by the power of their secret knowledge, brought additional chaos and confusion to the world.

Wescott also suggests that when the UFOnauts withdrew from the Earth's surface, they took some humans along with them to train and tutor.

According to Wescott, such a theory helps to explain two of the most widespread and persistent legends found among nearly all peoples and all cultures: (1) There was a time when gods walked the earth and tutored humankind. (2) There was a land called Atlantis, whose thriving civilization met with catastrophe and sank beneath the sea.

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UNIT 731

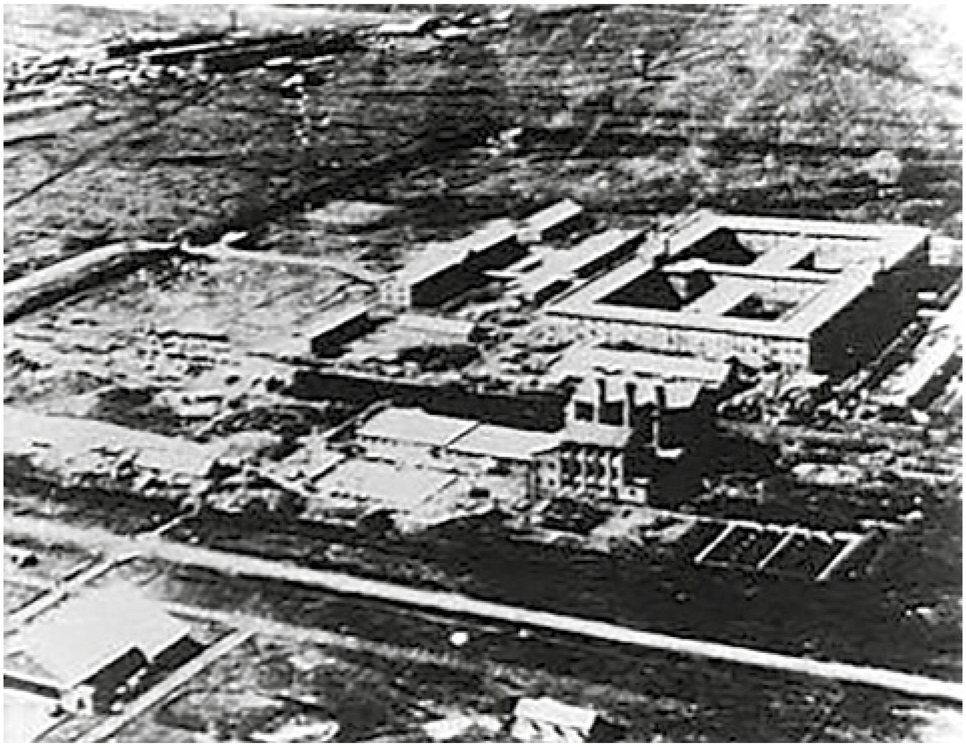
In 1940 the U.S. government seemed primarily concerned with entering the war in Europe against the Nazis. Consequently, little attention was paid to the atrocities that the Japanese Imperial Army committed in China with the biological warfare corps known as Unit 731.

In 1925 Japan refused to sign the Geneva Convention ban on biological weapons. Its officials reasoned that if those weapons were considered so horrible all other nations refused to use them, then they might be perfect for the Japanese military.

In 1932, Japanese troops invaded Manchuria. Accompanying the invasion force was famous bacteriologist Dr. Shiro Ishii. With three thousand troops under his command, Ishii began using Chinese prisoners to test the effects of biological weapons.

Ishii's sadistic experiments took place in Harbin, Manchuria at the headquarters of Unit 731, known to the outside world as the "Epidemic Prevention and Water Purification Department of the Kuantung Army." In 1938 Unit 731 relocated to a complex in Pingfang that encompassed nineteen square miles. Former Unit 731 members later testified that at least nine thousand people were killed in Ishii's gruesome experiments, which included vivisections performed without anesthetic and experiments on babies as young as three weeks old. There were no survivors at what some later termed the "Auschwitz of the East."

In 1942 Unit 731 ordered field tests to evaluate the effectiveness of biological weapons outside the laboratory. Chinese prisoners were forced to march through clouds of poison gas so their reactions could be filmed. Unit 731 conducted massive field tests on civilian and military targets, including having planes drop plague-infected fleas over two Chinese cities, causing outbreaks that killed tens of thousands. Some experiments backfired, like the 1942 incident when 1,700 Japanese soldiers died from dysentery, cholera, and typhus their scientists had seeded in wells and ponds throughout Zhejiang Province.



An undated photo taken some time before 1947 that shows the Unit 731 complex in Manchuria, which was controlled by Japan during World War II. The facility manufactured chemical and biological weapons, testing them on prisoners.

In 1945, Japanese generals suggested that kamikaze pilots could drop bombs of plague-infected fleas on San Diego. Although no biological weapons were utilized, some nine thousand balloons carrying ordinary explosive and incendiary bombs were launched across the Pacific on the Jet Stream. Some of these "Fugo" balloons actually made it across the ocean, causing some fires and a few deaths along the West Coast.

In the final days of World War II, Japanese troops blew up Unit 731's headquarters. Ishii ordered the remaining 150 subjects to be killed to cover up evidence of the experiments. As Unit 731 retreated from China, they released plague-infected animals, causing an outbreak of disease that killed thirty thousand people in the Harbin area from 1946 through 1948.

In 1946 Ishii and his colleagues received immunity from war-crimes prosecution in exchange for their data on biological warfare effects on humans. The statement of the Committee for the Far East, a subcommittee of the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee in Washington, was that the value "to the U.S. of Japanese biological warfare data is of such importance to national security as to far outweigh the value accruing from war crimes prosecution." General MacArthur added that the biological warfare information obtained from Japanese sources should be retained in top-secret intelligence channels.

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U.S. GOVERNMENT'S SECRET EXPERIMENTS ON ITS CITIZENS

The Department of Defense used hundreds of thousands of military personnel and private citizens for experiments with mustard and nerve gas, ionizing radiation, hallucinogens, and drugs.

Among the many secret experiments and other clandestine medical programs carried out by governmental or government-related agencies, the following are some of the most notorious:

1931: Cancer. The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Investigations infected human subjects with cancer cells. Dr. Cornelius Rhoads established U.S. Army Biological Warfare facilities in Maryland, Utah, and Panama and began a series of radiation exposure experiments on patients in government and civilian hospitals.

1932: Syphilis. In the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, two hundred black men diagnosed with syphilis were never told of their illness and were used as human guinea pigs in order to better understand the symptoms of the disease. None of the men received any kind of treatment, and only seventy-four survived.

1935: Dietary deficiencies. Millions had died of pellagra, a dietary deficiency, in poverty-stricken black populations. The U.S. Public Health Service finally acted to curb the disease and admitted that it had known the causes of pellagra for more than two decades.

1940: Malaria. In order to gauge the abilities of experimental drugs designed to fight malaria, four hundred prisoners in Chicago were infected with the disease.

1942: Mustard gas. Four thousand servicemen, mostly Seventh-day Adventists who were conscientious objectors, served as human guinea pigs for mustard gas experiments.

1946: Medical experiments. Wounded World War II veterans recovering in Veterans Administration hospitals were quietly used as subjects in medical studies and experiments.

1946-1948: Venereal diseases. On September 30, 2010, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius apologized to the government of Guatemala and the survivors and descendants of "clearly unethical" experiments conducted in 1946 to 1948 in which American public health doctors infected nearly 700 prison inmates, mental patients, and soldiers with venereal diseases. Since the prisons of Guatemala permitted conjugal visits, the National Institutes of Health, in an organized effort to test the effectiveness of penicillin, paid for syphilis-infected prostitutes to visit the prisoners. Some soldiers and mental patients had the infectious bacteria rubbed into scrapes and cuts made on their penises, arms, or faces. If the subjects contracted any venereal diseases, they were given the antibiotics being tested. According to Susan M. Reverby, the Wellesley College professor who disclosed the experiments, it is not clear whether everyone who was infected was cured.

1947: Radioactive injections. The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission began administering intravenous doses of radioactive materials to human subjects.

1947: Psychedelics. To evaluate LSD as a potential weapon or truth serum, the Central Intelligence Agency administered dosages of the powerful hallucinogenic drug to human subjects, civilian and military, often without their knowledge or consent.

1950: Radiation. Department of Defense detonated nuclear devices in desert areas and then monitored unsuspecting civilians in cities downwind from the blasts for medical problems and mortality rates.

1950: Bacteriological warfare. The U.S. Navy sprayed a cloud of bacteria over San Francisco to test how a large city would respond to more lethal biological attacks. Many residents became ill with pneumonia-like symptoms.

1955: Biological agents. The CIA released bacteria in the Tampa, Florida area to test its ability to infect human populations with biological agents.

1956: Yellow fever. Mosquitoes infected with yellow fever were released over Savannah, Georgia, and Avon Park, Florida. U.S. Army disease specialists, posing as public health officials, then tested area residents for effects.

1965: Dioxin. Inmates at Holmesburg State Prison in Philadelphia were dosed with dioxin, the toxic chemical component of Agent Orange, the cancer- and deformity-causing defoliant used by the U.S. military in Vietnam.

1966: Germ warfare. More than a million civilians were exposed to germ warfare when U.S. Army scientists dropped light bulbs filled with bacteria onto ventilation grates throughout the New York City subway system.

1977: Contamination. Senate hearings revealed that between 1949 and 1969, 239 highly populated areas—including San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Key West, Minneapolis, and St. Louis—had been purposefully contaminated with biological agents.

1990: Measles. The Centers for Disease Control inoculated more than 1,500 six-month-old black and Hispanic babies in Los Angeles against measles. Later, the center confessed that the vaccine was experimental.

1995: Biological agents. Evidence surfaced that the biological agents used during the Gulf War had first been tested on prisoners in the Texas Department of Corrections.

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VACCINES

No matter how many medical experts insist that vaccines help stop terrible diseases, a growing number of people believe that the cure could be worse than the sickness.

On some level, the practice of medicine is always about trust. People accept or do not accept healthcare decisions made by medical professionals based on how much they trust those people, the medical establishment as a whole, and the apparatus that lies behind it. Trust can be particularly hard to come by when people are dealing with a particularly awful disease, are living in times marked by tension and suspicion, or have too good of a memory for those times when an expert medical opinion has turned out to be less than expert.

Few subjects have inspired more conspiracy theories than the practice of vaccination. This is likely because the basic concept of vaccination involves not treating people as they get sick but preemptively injecting entire populations with a medicine that can sometimes have adverse effects. Even though the side effects of most vaccines range from nonexistent to mild, any negative consequence can seem disturbing when people don't believe the medicine works to begin with. Given the rumors that tend to spread about vaccines and some people's innate distrust of the medical profession in general, conspiracy-minded theorists will then generally start to question what the real reason is for the government insisting on vaccinating them. That open-ended question is answered with a slew of dark possibilities, including mass sterilization, mind control, body surveillance, and even genocide.

Modern vaccination began in the late eighteenth century when it was discovered that infecting people with mild forms of cowpox could protect against smallpox, one of the era's most devastating diseases. Inoculation programs spread in America throughout the nineteenth century, as did resistance to them. Numerous groups fought vaccination laws for reasons that ranged from insistence on bodily autonomy to religious objections and beliefs that vaccines were dangerous.

Many of those concerns—amplified by incidents such as the deaths of several children in St. Louis in 1901 from contaminated diphtheria vaccines and claims made in the 1970s about adverse effects from the DPT vaccine—have continued into the modern era. After U.S. soldiers returning from the Gulf War began reporting mysterious symptoms, it was suggested that "Gulf War Syndrome" was due to the vaccinations the troops had received before deploying in 1990.

Conspiracy theorists' worries about vaccination mandates include everything from pharmaceutical companies' seeking profit from captive populations to the vaccines themselves being a Trojan horse for secretive elites to poison, manipulate, or sterilize people. The first concern is fairly widespread: a 2014 study found that 20 percent of Americans believed that the medical profession insisted on giving vaccines even though they knew the shots were dangerous. The second worry was generally found more often outside the United States, where large numbers of people in countries from Nigeria to Pakistan believed that World Health Organization vaccine programs were covers for shrinking non-Western populations with vaccines that would actually sterilize people or spread diseases like HIV or cancer.

Suspicions about the COVID-19 vaccine began with misunderstandings about the mRNA technique used to develop it. Also, people were resentful of vaccine mandates.

Similar rumors began to circulate in the West after the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccines. Suspicions about the negative effects of vaccines had circulated in Western countries since the 1998 publication of a study in *The Lancet* by Dr. Andrew Wakefield, who suggested a link between the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine and the onset of autism. Though the study was later retracted, belief in an autism–vaccine link spread widely, especially the belief that children could be harmed by the vaccine preservative thimerosal.

When scientists were able to develop a COVID-19 vaccine in record time, conspiracy theorists who already thought vaccines spread rather than stopped disease were on alert. A wide array of theories proliferated, including not only the belief that the vaccines themselves were dangerous but that they could change people's DNA and even that they included microchips that allowed tech titans like Bill Gates to monitor the movements of everyone in the world through new 5G wireless towers. These theories were fueled by beliefs that the entire pandemic was a global conspiracy meant to control the world population or just another pharmaceutical profiteering scheme ginned up by a fear-mongering government medical establishment. Some antivaccine groups like Children's Health Defense—led by vaccine conspiracy theorist Robert F. Kennedy Jr.—saw explosive growth during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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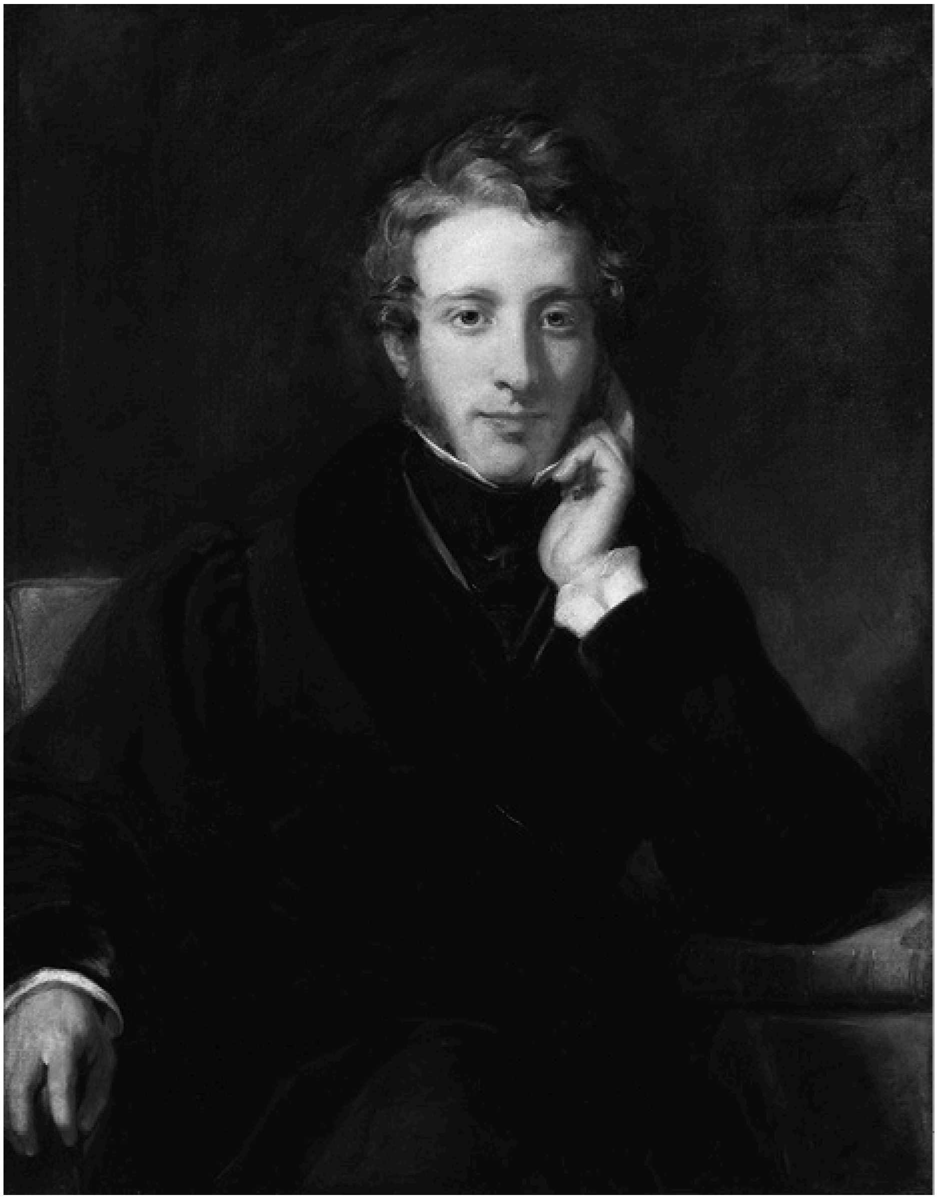
VRIL SOCIETY

This German secret society believed that whoever possessed the Vril force could conquer the world and meet the master race from the earth's interior as equals.

In 1871, when the occultist Edward George Earle Lytton Bulwer-Lytton, 1st Baron Lytton wrote a novel about a small group of German mystics who had discovered the truth about a race of supermen living within the earth's interior, he inspired the founding of the Brothers of the Light, the Luminous Lodge, the Vril Society. Bulwer-Lytton's *The Coming Race* told the story of an advanced civilization of giants who thrived in the inner earth. The super race had built a paradise based on the Vril force, a form of energy so powerful that the older beings had outlawed its use as a potential weapon.

In 1919 Karl Haushofer, a student of the Russian mystic George Gurdjieff, founded the Brothers of the Light Society in Berlin and soon changed its name to the Vril Society. As Haushofer's Vril grew in prominence, it united three major occult societies, the Lords of the Black Stone, the Black Knights of the Thule Society, and the Black Sun and chose the swastika, the hooked cross, as its symbol of the worship of the Black Sun. While these societies borrowed some concepts and rites from Theosophists, Rosicrucians, and various Hermetic groups, they placed special emphasis on the innate mystical powers of the Aryan race. The Vril and its brother societies maintained that Germanic/Nordic/Teutonic people were of Aryan origin, and that Christianity had destroyed the power of the Teutonic civilization.



Edward Bulwer-Lytton was an English politician and writer who penned the novel The Coming Race about a subterranean race of superior beings who made use of a power called the Vril force. The book was fiction, but some believed it was based on fact.

In 1921 Maria Orsic (or Orsitsch), a medium in the Vril Society, began claiming spirit messages originating from Aryan aliens whose home star was Aldebaran. Orsic and another medium, Sigrun, learned that the aliens spoke of two classes of people on their world—the Aryan master race and a subservient planetary race that had evolved through mutation and climate changes. A half billion years ago the Aryans, also known as the Elohim or Elder Race, began to colonize our solar system. On Earth, the Aryans were identified as the Sumerians until they elected to carve out an empire for themselves in the hollow of the planet. The Vril force was derived from the Black Sun, a large ball of "Prima Materia" that provided light and radiation to the inhabitants of the inner earth.

The Vril Lodge believed that whoever learned control of the Vril would become master of himself, those around him, and the world itself, if he should so choose. This ancient force had been known among the alchemists and magicians as the Chi, the Odic force, the Orgone, and the Astral Light, and the members of the Vril Society were well aware of its transformative powers to create supermen out of ordinary mortals. Such members of the lodge as Adolf Hitler, Heinrich Himmler, Hermann Göring, Dr. Theodor Morell (Hitler's personal physician), and other top Nazi leaders became obsessed with preparing German youth to become a master race so that the Lords of the Inner Earth would find them worthy above all others when they emerged to evaluate the people of Earth's nations.

In 1922, members of Thule and Vril built the J*enseitsflugmaschine*, the Other World Flight Machine, based on the psychic messages received from the Aldebaran aliens. W. O. Schumann of the Technical University of Munich was in charge of the project until it was halted in 1924; the craft was then stored in the Messerschmitt aircraft company's Augsburg facility. In 1937, after Hitler came into power, he authorized the construction of the *Rundflugzeug*, the "round or disk-shaped vehicle," for military use and for spaceflight.

In April 1942 Nazi Germany sent out an expedition composed of a number of its most visionary scientists to seek a military vantage point in the hollow earth. Although the expedition of leading scientists left at a time when the Third Reich was putting maximum effort into the drive against the Allies, Göring, Himmler, and Hitler are said to have enthusiastically endorsed the project. Steeped in the more esoteric teachings of metaphysics, Hitler had long been convinced that Earth was concave and that a master race lived on the inside of the planet.

The Nazi scientists who left for the Baltic island of Rugen had complete confidence in the validity of their quest. In their minds, such a coup as discovering the opening to the inner world would not only provide them with a military advantage but go a long way in convincing the masters who lived there that the German people truly deserved to mix their blood with them in the creation of a hybrid master race to occupy the surface world.

Students of the Vril Society also insist that aliens worked with Nazi scientists to create early models of flying saucers. The UFO researcher Vladimir Terziski believes that an "alien tutor race" secretly began cooperating with certain German scientists from the Thule, the Vril, and the Black Sun in the late 1920s. Working in underground bases with the alien intelligences, Terziski says, the Nazis mastered antigravity space flight, established space stations, accomplished time travel, and developed their spacecraft to warp speeds.

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WACO

To this day it is unclear who fired the first shot which led to one of the most tragic religious group–government conflicts in American history.

Maybe there's something in the very soil of the place that encourages conflict. More than a dozen years after David Koresh and about 104 men, women, and children of his Branch Davidian community began a standoff with agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), two museums commemorate the disaster—each in opposition to the other. While about two dozen Branch Davidians loyal to Koresh built their museum at one edge of the property, a dissident group who opposed Koresh's leadership erected a chapel to lament those who "chose to follow the man of sin, David Koresh."

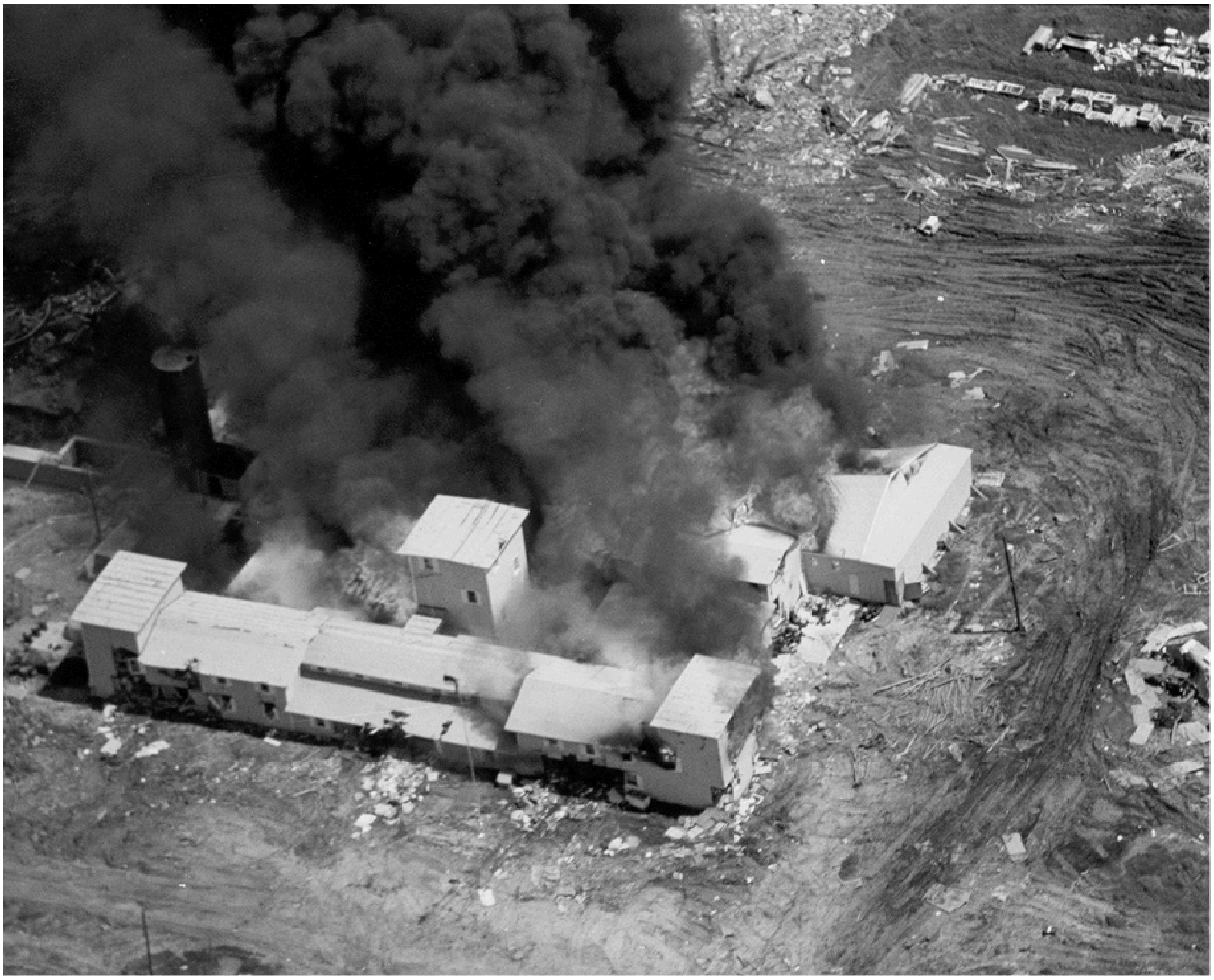
The events that led to the destruction of the Branch Davidian compound outside of Waco, Texas, in April 1993 will be bitterly debated for many years to come, and the repercussions of federal agencies' attacking a religious group may continue to bring acts of violence and revenge against the U.S. government. In a strange way, the destruction of the Branch Davidian compound was the terrible realization of a self-fulfilling prophecy that had been made by its leader, David Koresh (born Vernon Howell), who prophesied that the Apocalypse would occur in the United States, not Israel.

The Branch Davidian religious group had its origins when Victor Houteff separated from the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1929 to form The Shepherd's Rod, Branch Seventh-day Adventist. Houteff envisioned himself as a divine messenger whose mission was to reveal the information contained in secret scroll mentioned in the book of Revelation. He was also to assemble a group of 144,000 Christians who would reestablish the kingdom of King David in Palestine so that Christ would be encouraged to manifest his Second Coming. In 1935, with eleven followers, Houteff founded the Mount Carmel Center near Waco, Texas. In 1942 he broke completely from the Seventh-day Adventists when they refused to encourage conscientious objection during World War II, and he changed the name of his group to the Davidian Seventh-day Adventist Association.

When Houteff died in 1955, there were about 125 members residing in the Mount Carmel Center, with a few others in Los Angeles and other parts of the country. The group began to splinter upon their leader's death, for many became disillusioned, having regarded him as the new Elijah who would help bring about the reign of Jesus on earth after the Second Coming. Florence Houteff, Victor's widow, solidified the group with her vision that Judgment Day would occur on April 22, 1959. After her prophecy failed to come true, she dissolved the group in 1961 and in 1965 sold Mount Carmel to Benjamin Roden, who named his faction the Branch Davidian Seventh-day Adventist Association. Roden, who proclaimed himself the Fifth Angel in Revelation, led the group until his death in 1978; his wife, Lois Roden, declared herself the Sixth Angel and a prophet speaking through the feminine aspect of the Holy Spirit.

Vernon Howell joined the Branch Davidians in 1981 and almost immediately attracted Lois Roden's attention as the next mighty prophet to come from the group. After a series of conflicts with George Roden, Benjamin and Lois's son, Howell took control of the Davidians in 1988 and changed his name to David Koresh in 1990. "Koresh" was a form of the name Cyrus, and Howell was inspired to take the name by the text in Isaiah 45, in which the prophet predicts that a Persian king named Cyrus will permit the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. If Houteff had declared himself the Fourth Angel in Revelation, Benjamin Roden the Fifth, and Lois Roden the Sixth, David Koresh pronounced himself the Lamb of Revelation, who would open the seven seals of the scroll and interpret the secrets that would immediately bring about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Obsessed with the Book of Revelation and the fast-approaching Apocalypse, Koresh began in 1984 to establish a new lineage of the House of David from his seed. As did the great King David, Koresh took many wives so that they might bear his children. Since his mission as the Lamb was to interpret the scroll of Revelation, he envisioned himself as one of the pivotal characters in the drama of the Apocalypse and the perfect male to sire many children for the time of rebuilding after the battle of Armageddon. And because the final struggle between good and evil was now rescheduled to begin in the United States, rather than Israel, it behooved the community of believers to begin to stockpile, food, water, and weapons. In 1992 Koresh renamed the Mount Carmel commune "Ranch Apocalypse."



The Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, burned to the ground after a long siege by the FBI in 1993. Seventy-six people, including twenty-five children, were killed.

Shortly after Koresh moved his flock to Ranch Apocalypse, rumors began to circulate that the Branch Davidians had become a cult that abused children, observed distasteful religious practices, and possessed large amounts of illegal firearms and explosives. On February 28, 1993, ATF agents raided Ranch Apocalypse.

Branch Davidian Sheila Martin left the compound that day because one of her sons was ill. It was her husband, Wayne, one of Koresh's top aides, who placed a frantic 911 telephone call when camouflage-clad ATF agents showed up to serve an arrest warrant on Koresh for weapons charges. Wayne shouted into the phone that there were seventy-five men surrounding the compound and they were shooting at the community. He begged them to call off the attack because there were women and children in the building.

Six Branch Davidians and four ATF agents were killed, and at least one Davidian and twenty-four agents wounded, in the initial gunfight. Later the FBI took over, and the siege that ensued lasted fifty-one days.

On April 14 Koresh had a vision that instructed him to write his translation of the seven seals in Revelation and then surrender. But the encircling forces had grown tired of his biblical babblings and apocalyptic pronouncements. On April 19 the FBI attacked with a finality that ended the standoff.

Koresh and eighty-six (this figure varies from seventy-five to eighty-seven) of his followers were killed in the subsequent fighting and the terrible fire that swept through the compound, totally destroying it. At least seventeen (some say twenty-one) of the dead were children. Ever since the destruction of the compound, accusations have circulated that the FBI was responsible for starting the fire with incendiary tear gas cartridges. One former soldier named Timothy McVeigh stated at his trial that he was so outraged by the attack on the Branch Davidians that he bombed the federal building in Oklahoma City two years to the day after the fires ravaged the compound.

The controversy over the last days of David Koresh and the Branch Davidians will continue for years to come. Even after the 1994 trial in San Antonio of eleven surviving Branch Davidians, which included seven weeks of testimony, 130 witnesses, and more than a thousand pieces of evidence, jurors said they still could not decide who had fired the first shot on February 28, 1993.

Prior to the siege at Ranch Apocalypse, there were about 130 members of the Branch Davidians. After the destruction of the compound, there were estimates of thirty to fifty members who had managed to leave the commune before the final days or who had escaped the conflagration. Current membership is impossible to determine.

President Bill Clinton, Attorney General Janet Reno, and other government officials described Koresh as a madman who brought his followers and their innocent children to awful deaths. Senator John McCain of Arizona, by contrast, described the tragedy at Waco as "an ill-conceived exercise of federal authority that led to the unnecessary loss of life."

In the aftermath of Waco, conspiracy theories spread about government over-reach, possible cover-ups of law enforcement mistakes, and the belief that the Branch Davidians were demonized as a dangerous cult so that they could be used as a convenient excuse for federal agencies looking to justify all their expensive military equipment. Many conspiracy theorists became incensed by what they saw as a murderous government run amok, including a then-teenaged Alex Jones.

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WATERGATE DEATH LIST

Everybody knows about the Watergate scandal, in which President Richard Nixon conspired to spy on his enemies. Fewer people know about those who died after the first Watergate arrests were made.

On December 8, 1972, the Watergate scandal was breaking in the mainstream media. It was widely known that the White House appeared to be at the center of a dirty nexus of shady political dealings, including payoffs, burglaries, and enemy lists. On that day, United Airlines Flight 553 crashed in Chicago. This would seem to have nothing to do with Watergate. But one of the dead passengers was Dorothy Hunt, the wife of accused Watergate mastermind Howard Hunt. She was carrying $100,000. This did not seem to be a coincidence to Mae Brussell.

Known as "the Queen of Conspiracy," Brussell said she had had her eyes opened after the assassination of John F. Kennedy, which she believed was an intelligence apparatus operation, with Oswald as the "expendable." A devoted student of conspiracy theory, she was a dogged researcher who was known to pore through eight newspapers a day. She looked for links between the seemingly unconnected tragedies that seemed to be happening with increasing frequency in the chaotic America of the 1960s and 1970s. She believed that powerful people were manipulating American history through the usage of "bullets and blackmail." Once Watergate came out into the open, her ideas started to gain more currency.

On her weekly radio show, which ran for years and gained a cult following around the country, Brussell tied those links together in a dense, fully footnoted, and ever-evolving theory that tied much of what was going on back to Watergate and what she saw as a murderous cover-up. Brussell's list of the people murdered because they knew too much about Watergate, which she saw as merely the tip of the iceberg of dirty deeds done for years by the military–industrial–intelligence apparatus, was extensive. She listed 30 suspicious deaths, many of which happened after the first Watergate arrests in June 1972, in an interview with the Canadian paper *Midnight*, including:

FBI director J. Edgar Hoover was known for keeping files on important people that contained many secrets. Could he have been targeted for assassination by the government?

J. Edgar Hoover-May 2, 1972: Supposedly, two break-ins had occurred at the FBI director's house before his death: the first to retrieve papers that he might have used for blackmail leverage against the Nixon administration and the second to plant an untraceable poison in his toiletries that would cause fatal heart seizures.

Hale Boggs-c. December 29, 1972: The congressman and Warren Commission member who was said to have "startling" information about the Kennedy assassination and Watergate disappeared when the plane he was on crashed in Alaska. The two gas company attorneys with him apparently had incriminating documents about White House corruption.

Dorothy Hunt-December 8, 1972: Carrying $100,000 as a payoff to keep her husband, E. Howard Hunt, from fingering anybody else in Watergate, Hunt died in the

United Airlines Flight 553 crash. Brussell claimed that traces of cyanide were found in the pilot's bloodstream.

Lyndon Baines Johnson-January 22, 1973: In late 1972, the former president had suggested that Kennedy was assassinated as a result of the United States "running a damn Murder Inc. in the Caribbean." A few months later, he suffered a massive heart attack, dying in the arms of Secret Service agent Mike Howard, who years earlier had been on protection duty for Lee Harvey Oswald's widow, Marina.

Beverly Kaye-December 20, 1973: A secretary for Secret Service agent John Bull who died of a stroke at the White House, Kaye was responsible for storing Nixon's audiotapes and had apparently told friends that she believed the president and his advisers were implicated in Watergate.

Sam Giancana-June 19, 1975: The Chicago Mafia boss was shot dead by an unknown assailant not long before he was supposed to appear before the Senate's Church Committee, which may have questioned him about his involvement in CIA plots.

Rolando Masferrer-October 31, 1975: One of the Cuban exiles who worked with the Watergate plumbers and likely knew more than was good for him, Masferrer died when his car exploded.

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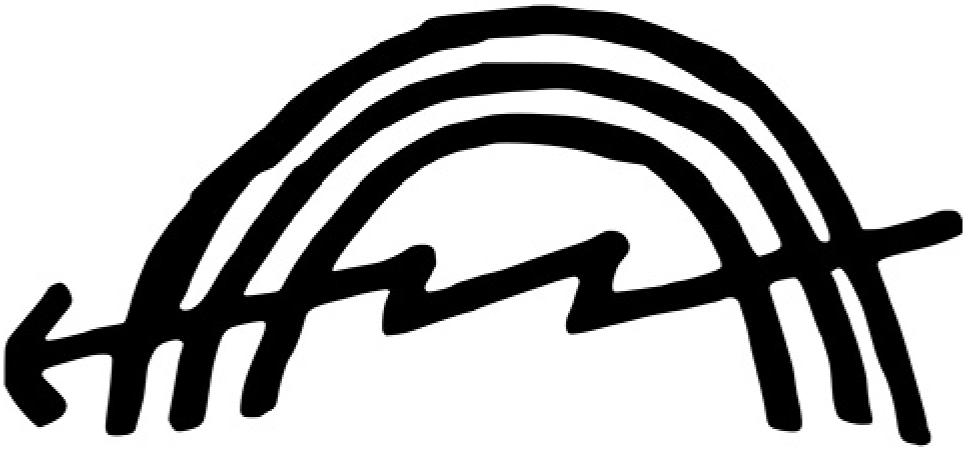
WEATHERMEN

The much-maligned Weathermen did blow up quite a few buildings and police cars, but to their credit, the only people who got killed by one of their explosive devices were some of their own bomb makers.



The logo of the Weather Underground Organization, an offshoot of the Students for a Democratic Society that vowed to end American imperialism.

The Weathermen, also known as the Weather Underground Organization (WUO), took their name from the Bob Dylan song "Subterranean Homesick Blues," which includes the lyrics, "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows." In other words, any astute individual living in the late 1960s could see that societal revolution was imminent.

At first the Weathermen were composed largely of former members of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), who had begun their "insurgency" as a means of creating a new America of "participatory democracy," which would grow out of the nation's campuses. The Weathermen were far more revolutionary, avowedly communist in ideology and openly advocating the overthrow of the American government and its capitalistic system. While the most violent the SDS became was in the trashing of some college administrators' offices, the Weathermen engaged in a war against the government that included bombings, jailbreaks, and inciting riots and lasted from 1969 to 1976.

A timeline of some of the major events in the WUO's war with the U.S. government:

October 6, 1969: The Weathermen achieve international attention with their "Days of Rage" in Chicago when they blow up a statue that had been dedicated to the police officers killed in the 1886 Haymarket Riot. During the next two days, three hundred rioters rampage through Chicago's business district, smashing windows and overturning cars. Police shoot six rioters and arrest seventy.

December 6, 1969: The WUO bombs several police cars in a precinct parking lot on North Halstead Street in Chicago to protest the December 4 killings of Black Panther Party leaders Fred Hampton and Matt Clark by police officers.

February 13, 1970: Police cars in Berkeley, California, are bombed.

March 6, 1970: Thirty-four sticks of dynamite are discovered in the 13th Police District of Detroit. That same day, WUO members Theodore Gold, Diana Oughton, and Terry Robbins accidentally blow up along with their bomb factory in Greenwich Village.

May 10, 1970: The National Guard building in Washington, D.C., is bombed in protest of the National Guard killings of four students at Kent State University in Ohio.

May 21, 1970: Bernadine Dohrn is credited as the author of the WUO's official "Declaration of a State of War" with the United States.

June 9, 1970: New York City police headquarters is bombed.

July 16, 1970: The Presidio Army Base in San Francisco is bombed to honor the eleventh anniversary of the Cuban Revolution.

August 1970: The Marin County, California, courthouse is bombed.

September 22, 1970: The WUO helps Dr. Timothy Leary, LSD guru, escape from the California Men's Colony prison.

October 8, 1970: Queens Courthouse is bombed in solidarity with the New York prison riots. The Harvard Center for International Affairs is bombed to protest the war in Vietnam.

February 28, 1971: The U.S. Capitol is bombed to protest the Laos invasion.

September 17, 1971: The New York Department of Corrections is bombed to protest the killing of twenty-nine inmates during the riot at Attica Penitentiary.

May 1972: The Pentagon is bombed to protest air force raids on Hanoi.

March 6, 1974: The Department of Health, Education and Welfare offices in San Francisco are bombed to protest the alleged sterilization of poor women.

May 13, 1974: The office of the California attorney general is bombed in honor of the six members of the Symbionese Liberation Army killed by police.

June 17, 1974: The headquarters of Gulf Oil is bombed in Pittsburgh to protest its activities in Angola and Vietnam.

July 1974: The WUO publishes its book *Prairie Fire*, calling for a unified Communist Party and continuing to stress the need for acts of violence.

January 28, 1975: The State Department is bombed in retaliation for the escalation of the war in Vietnam.

In spite of a program of bombings conducted over a period of six years against the U.S. Capitol, the Pentagon, and numerous police and prison buildings, the WUO took elaborate measures to warn all personnel to evacuate the targets before the bombs exploded. Their war against the U.S. was waged successfully without the loss of life on the part of the government. The only the deaths that occurred were of the three WUO members in the accidental explosion of the Greenwich Village bomb factory. The WUO members were also largely successful in evading capture by the police and FBI. Some individuals who became associated with the WUO during or after the group disbanded were Diane Donghi, Kathy Boudin, Mark Rudd, Bernadine Dohrn, and Bill Ayers.

By the late 1970s most of the members had turned themselves in to the authorities or had joined other revolutionary groups. Few of the WUO served prison time because the evidence gathered by them by the FBI's COINTELPRO was ruled in court to have been illegally acquired.

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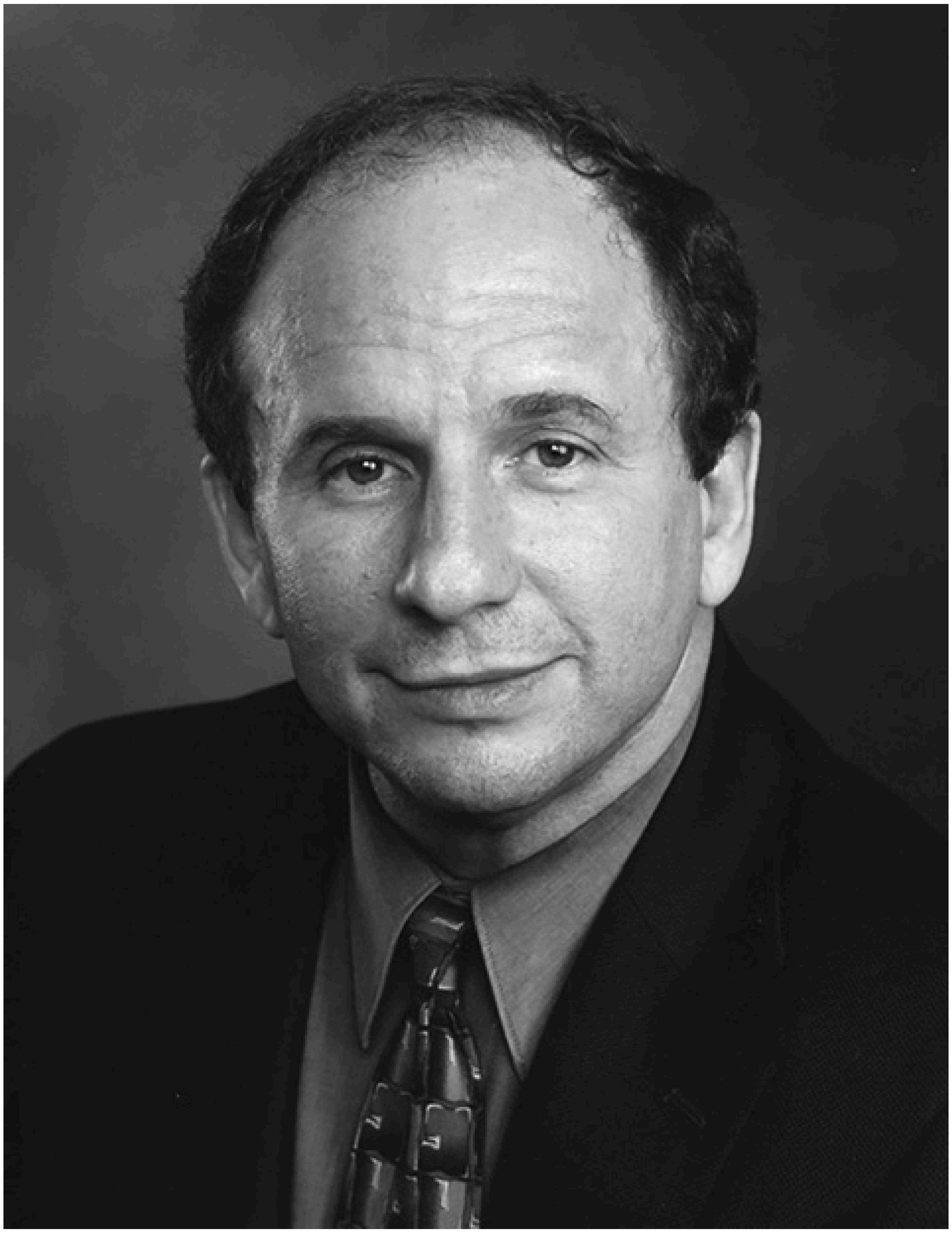
PAUL WELLSTONE, MURDER OF

Some conspiracy theorists claim that the plane crash that killed lone-wolf progressive Senator Paul Wellstone, his wife, daughter, and five crew and staff was caused by a secret high-tech electromagnetic weapon.

On October 25, 2002, Minnesota Democratic senator Paul Wellstone, his wife, Sheila, daughter Marcia, two pilots, and three staff members died in a small plane crash near Eveleth, Minnesota. The plane, a twin-engine Beechcraft King Air A100, was reported to be in good condition before take-off at 9:37 A.M. from Minneapolis–St. Paul. Pilot Richard Conry, fifty-five, and copilot Michael Guess, thirty, both certified and experienced, had received permission to climb to 13,000 feet at 9:48 A.M. and received clearance to descend toward Eveleth at 10:01 A.M. The pilots were informed that there was icing at 9,000 to 11,000 feet and at 10:10 passed through the icing without any discernible difficulty. At 10:18 the Beechcraft was cleared for an approach to the Eveleth runway. Suddenly the airplane began to drift from the approach path, and it was last sighted at 10:21 A.M. flying at 1,800 feet.

Carol Carmody, acting chairwoman of the National Transportation Safety Board, said on October 29 that the impact area of the crash was 300 feet by 190 feet and that there was evidence of "extreme post-crash fire." The plane appeared to be headed south, away from the runway. Carmody said that the angle was "steeper than would be expected in a normal stabilized standardized approach" to the runway. Some eyewitnesses said that the plane went down in a near-vertical plunge.



Senator Paul Wellstone of Wisconsin was a progressive disliked by many conservative rivals. His death and the death of his family in a 2002 plane crash has seemed suspicious to some conspiracy theorists.

Paul Wellstone's death came just over two years after a similar plane crash took the life of another Democratic Senate candidate, Missouri governor Mel Carnahan, on October 16, 2000. In 2001 two Senate Democrats, Majority Leader Tom Daschle and Judiciary Committee chairman Patrick Leahy, received letters containing anthrax. The federal Justice Department, headed by John Ashcroft (who lost to Mel Carnahan in the 2000 Senate race in Missouri even though Carnahan was deceased at the time of the vote), was unable to trace or to apprehend the anthrax mailer.

Wellstone was the only classically progressive voice in the Senate. Mother Jones magazine described him as the "first 1960s radical elected to the U.S. senate." To his many admirers, he was the lone wolf opposing the status quo of both the Democrats and Republicans. He was the most articulate and most vocal Senate opponent of the George W. Bush administration. He voted to oppose the Senate resolution authorizing Bush to go to war in Iraq.

Conspiracy theorists stand firm that whatever caused the crash and death of Paul Wellstone, his wife, daughter, and five others, it was not the airplane. The plane was of exceptional quality, the pilots extremely well qualified, and the chill October weather posed no serious problems. Some conspiracists have considered a small bomb, noting how quickly the plane burst into flames.

There is another peculiar aspect about the crash to consider. According to Rick Wahlberg, sheriff of St. Louis County, where the crash occurred, a team of FBI agents from Minneapolis was on the scene around noon, roughly an hour and a half after the accident and less than an hour after local officers and rescue workers had located the crash site and found a way to access it. Later, when discussing the speed with which the FBI agents had arrived on the scene, none of the local authorities said that they had called the Bureau. They figured that the agents had to have left Minneapolis at the same time Wellstone's plane did.

Evaluating the many peculiarities of the fatal crash, some conspiracists conclude that one of the high-tech weapons that direct electromagnetic pulse, radio frequency, or high-energy radio frequency was utilized to bring down Wellstone's plane. Adding to this frightening conclusion are reports of a strange cell phone phenomenon that was observed in the Eveleth area. At 10:18 A.M., the same time that a brief, but abrupt, interruption of communication between Wellstone's plane at the airport tower occurred, cell phones were also interrupted.

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WEREWOLVES FOR DER FUHRER

Der Führer wanted the Hitler Youth to be like werewolves—cruel, pitiless, and willing to erode thousands of years of human compassion and conscience.

An old folk legend in Germany and the Nordic European countries relates that the common folk kept themselves well hidden behind closed doors on those dark and stormy nights when Wodan and his wolves were abroad on their Wild Hunt. In the opinion of some anthropologists, the legend began when primitive hunting tribes, armed only with sharpened staves, ran through the forests in lupine packs seeking fresh meat. When they found their prey, whether animal or human, they would kill and dismember their victims as much with their teeth and claws as with their weapons. Other, more passive, tribes knew that they had better stay hidden in the darkness when the lycanthropic packs were on the hunt.

The German resistance movement raised against Napoleon in 1813 was known as the Wild Hunt, in an obvious historical allusion to the legend of Wodan hunting at night with his wolves. In 1923 a secret terrorist group known as Organization Werewolf was organized in Germany by Fritz Kappe. Their banner was a black flag with a skull and crossbones in stark white contrast. At first the movement expanded rather quickly across Germany, but as a result of a number of arrests by the Weimar government, the Werewolves never posed any real threat to the establishment.

Adolf Hitler was deeply enamored of wolves and werewolves. The very title *Führer* means "leader" and when compounded with *Wolfen* denotes the leader of a pack of hunting wolves. And Hitler's given name, Adolf, means "noble wolf."

Psychobiographer Robert G. L. Waite states that Hitler was always fascinated with wolves. At the beginning of his political career, he chose "Herr Wolf" as his pseudonym. He named his headquarters in France "Wolfsschlucht" (Wolf's Gulch) and, in the Ukraine, "Werwolf." He demanded that his sister change her name to "Frau Wolf." He renamed the Volkswagen factory "Wolfsburg" and decreed himself "Conductor Wolf." His favorite tune for whistling in his carefree moods was "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?"

It was as werewolves that Hitler envisioned German youth when he dictated in his program for the education of the Hitler Youth that they must learn to become indifferent to pain. They must have no weakness or tenderness in them. When he looked into their eyes, Hitler said, he wanted to see "once more in the eyes of a pitiless youth the gleam of pride and independence of the beast of prey." It was his wish that he might somehow "eradicate thousands of years of human domestication" and allow the werewolves once again to run free and to work their destruction upon the weak and those unsuited to be members of the new world order that he was creating. The black uniform of the dreaded SS, with the skull and crossbones on their caps, were inspired by the nightly terror visited on the people by the Wild Hunt and by the skeletons of the dead left in Wodan's wake.

Quite likely, the more ruthless German youth responded to their Führer's summons that they should be like werewolves, cruel and pitiless, prepared to erode thousands of years of human domestication.

Hitler gloried in expressing the brutal, wolflike political retaliations that he would visit upon those who opposed him. There are numerous stories about the rages that would possess him—to the point where he would fall to the floor and literally chew the carpet. "If the stories about Hitler's rages are true," states Robert Eisler, an Austrian scholar and author of *Man into Wolf*, "they would appear to have been manic lycanthropic states and not melancholic bouts of repentance. If the accounts were invented, they have sprung from the archetypal depths of the storytellers' unconscious race-memory and not from the archetypal minds of the doubtless paranoid subjects of the stories in question."

Toward the end of World War II when the collapse of Nazi Germany appeared imminent, Josef Göbbels revived the Werewolves after Heinrich Himmler's speech in 1945 called for a new Volkssturm ("People's Storm") to operate underground in defense of the homeland. The organization took as their insignia a black armband with a skull and crossbones and a silver *SS*. Their main function was to assassinate and terrorize anti-Nazi Germans and to harass advancing Allied troops. In Leipzig female Werewolves poured scalding water from the windows of houses onto the heads of Allied soldiers passing below. In Baden they killed a number of French soldiers by ambushing them as they were resting.

The Volkssturm was a German militia set up by the Nazis to harass countrymen who turned against the Nazis as well as to fight against the Allies, which they did unsuccessfully.

Even after hostilities had ended and the war was officially over, the Werewolves continued their terrorist activities. At the Nuremberg trials, several Nazi leaders testified that the Werewolves were now under the control of the notorious Martin Bormann, who had somehow managed to escape capture by the Allies.

The Werewolves resurfaced in 1994 when Steven Spielberg's masterpiece about the Holocaust, *Schindler's List* (1993), was scheduled to open in Russian theaters. Members of the group who were arrested by Russian security forces confessed their plans to firebomb Moscow cinemas showing the film. The Werewolves, estimated at about a hundred members strong, acknowledged that they took their name from the Nazi secret-police operation that went underground once the Allies defeated Hitler's troops in World War II.

Conspiracists saw the hands of the CIA and the shadow government behind the virus's evolution and heard the echoes of the New World Order's plan to decrease the population of the planet.

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WEST NILE VIRUS

Where did this terrible disease come from?

The West Nile virus (WNV) was first identified by virologists in 1937 in the West Nile district of Uganda. If the virus originated in Africa, how did it get to the United States?

Some conspiracy theorists believe that Fidel Castro obtained West Nile virus from Communist bacteriological warfare sources, and the Cubans have been releasing hundreds of thousands of birds infected with the disease to fly into our country.

Virologists note that West Nile was reported in Egypt in the 1950s. Then, in a rather severe outbreak in Israel in 1957, the virus was identified as the responsible agent in severe meningoencephalitis in elderly patients. The virus was next reported in horses in France in the 1960s. West Nile arrived in the United States in 1999 with cases of encephalitis diagnosed in horses and humans, followed by an outbreak in the New York City area. In the United States the virus is largely maintained in birds, especially crows and blackbirds. In 80 percent of people the infection causes no symptoms. In many others it causes only mild flulike symptoms. People over fifty are most liable to be at risk for the extreme reactions of encephalitis and meningitis.

In the New York area, authorities decided to spray the insecticide Malathion over certain residential areas in an effort to reduce the mosquito population. Environmentalists disapproved of the large-scale spraying, arguing that the possible deleterious effects of the chemical on people's health far outweighed the few lives that might be saved because of it.

Conspiracists saw the hands of the CIA and the shadow government behind the virus's evolution and heard the echoes of the New World Order's plan to decrease the population of the planet. As proof, they pointed to the U.S. government and military's decades-long habit of secretly spraying civilians with dangerous chemicals to test the results.

Prior to 1999, people worried about mosquitos carrying yellow fever or malaria. The Centers for Disease Control is base in Atlanta because it was the headquarters for malaria-eradication efforts in the American South. In 1956 the U.S. military released mosquitoes infected with yellow fever over Savannah, Georgia, and Avon Park, Florida. After each test, army agents posing as public health officials would test infected victims for the range of effects.

Ken Alibek, a Russian biological weapons expert who defected to the United States in the 1990s, informed U.S. authorities that he thought the West Nile outbreak seemed suspiciously like biological warfare. Other experts in the field of bioterrorism said that terrorists could easily deceive a target people with an outbreak of disease that appeared due to natural causes. Conspiracy theorists agree that if terrorists made a biological plague look like a natural outbreak, the response of the authorities would be delayed and the decision-making process would be slowed.

Many conspiracists are certain that the spraying in the New York City area was a CIA-sponsored event, arranged for propaganda purposes to prepare the public to accept other chemical spraying in the future.

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Conspiracy
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Y2K

As the calendar moved inexorably toward the year 2000, a new millennium, apocalyptic fever seized millions.

Millennium means a period of one thousand years, but *the* Millennium signifies the return of Jesus and the end of the world as it presently exists. There seemed a strange kind of foreboding among a sizable portion of the populace that at the end of the millennium which ran from 1000 to 2000 C.E., humankind was going to pay for its sins. The world was coming to an end. Judgment Day was upon the whole of humanity. And whether one feared a wrathful God or a depleted planet didn't matter. Either way, when the sun rose on January 1, 2000 (if, indeed, it rose at all), it would shine on whatever rubble remained of an old world destroyed or a new world being born. There was hope only for a righteous few who would welcome the Rapture lifting them up to the skies, Jesus returning to conquer evil, or perhaps scientific salvation that would allow some of *Homo sapiens* to survive.

And finally, there were those who shrugged the whole thing off.

Frightening rumors about what was called "Y2K" ("year 2000") kept vast audiences up all night listening to radio talk shows. What had happened was that in the early days of computers when their storage capacity was extremely limited, to save space programmers used two instead of four digits for years, leaving off the "19." As a result, there was concern that beyond December 31, 1999, every computer would reset to the year 1901/

Fears multiplied that at the stroke of midnight, lights would go out all over the world; power plants would shut down; electrical appliances—from furnaces to toasters—would be useless. One of the most frightening Y2K visions was that passenger and military aircraft all over the world would fall from the sky because their computers would shut down.

Thousands of stalwart individuals, determined that they and their families would survive Y2K, bought wood-burning stoves, kerosene lanterns, generators, and firearms. Millions of homes stocked up on canned goods, bottled water, and batteries.

Tabloid newspapers joined the radio and television talk shows in bombarding an already nervous population with prophecies of the coming apocalypse as elucidated by historians, scientists, theologians, Bible scholars, futurists, aboriginal seers from many cultures, psychic-sensitives from around the world, and UFO contactees channeling advice from outer-space intelligences. A 1997 Associated Press poll revealed that nearly 25 percent of adult Christians believed Jesus would return on January 1, 2000, or soon thereafter to set in motion the terrible events prophesied in the books of Daniel, Ezekiel, and Revelation.

As the year 1999 progressed, tensions ratcheted up. Israel deported members of Concerned Christians, a cult that had come to Jerusalem to plan the battle of Armageddon that would launch the Second Coming of Christ. The founder of the group, Monte Kim Miller, believed that he was the final prophet on earth before Jesus' return. Miller had been told by God that he would be killed in Jerusalem's streets in December 1999 but would rise from the dead in three days.

A former kibbutz worker named Jacob Hawkins changed his name to Yisrael and prophesied that the world would end if the laws of Yahweh were not universally followed. Yisrael soon had nearly three thousand followers who believed that he would announce the exact time of Jesus' return—if Satan didn't murder him first.

Sergei Torop was dismissed his position as sergeant with a Russian police unit when he began to have religious visions. Torop changed his name to Vissarion, revealed that he was Jesus returned and, with thousands of followers, began building a "City of the Sun" on Siberia's Mount Sukhaya.

JUNO
new and improved
Version 4.0
Y2K
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Includes
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Y2K compliance became a frantic race for all government, academic, and public forms of software and hardware. While the U.S. government spent millions on such preparedness, other less wealthy countries that did not experienced few problems, which led to theories it was all a hoax.

Fifty miles from Little Rock, Arkansas, a former Mennonite minister, Robert Millar, built Elohim City, a paramilitary fortress, in anticipation of the End-Times. Millar believed that a series of cataclysms would strike the United States soon after the year 2000 and cleanse the unworthy and wicked from the earth.

As millions were stockpiling firewood, bottled water, canned goods, and other necessities to withstand the apocalypse, some worriers posed the question of whether the millennium would actually begin on January 1, 2000—or January 1, 2001.

Stephen Jay Gould, professor of zoology and geology at Harvard and an author of books about science, history, and philosophy, released his *Questioning the Millennium: A Rationalist's Guide to a Precisely Arbitrary Countdown* in 1997. Gould discusses the human "fascination with numerical regularity" and notes that some philosophers have divided earthly history into a cycle of four based on the Four Empires in the apocalyptic chapters of the book of Daniel; others have advocated a fivefold division based on the five sequential political societies mentioned by Plato. "The millennium has been predicted and expected at almost any time, depending on the system in favor," Gould writes. "Obviously, with Thomas Muentzer advocating 1525, William Miller 1844, Wovoka 1890, Chilembwe 1915, the year 1000 or 2000, and intervals of 1000 in general, could claim no special preference."

When January 1, 2000, came without the world ending, and so did January 1, 2001, most of the world breathed a sigh of relief.

Some argued that Y2K turned out to be no big deal only because thousands of computer engineers worked around the clock for years at an estimated cost of some $300 billion to upgrade systems so that the new millennium could start smoothly.

Others believed it had been a massive hoax to sell survival gear and last-minute software patches.

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FRANCIS PARKER YOCKEY

A strange man right out of the Twilight Zone devoted his life to an attempt to reverse the result of World War II and declare the Third Reich the winner.

If Francis Parker Yockey had not committed suicide in 1960 when the FBI finally caught up with him, he would be pleased at the violent and chaotic manner in which world events have progressed since 9/11. He would have delighted in the collapse of the World Trade Center and rejoiced that Islamic extremists had been the perpetrators of the terrorist act. Yockey had dedicated his life to reversing the outcome of World War II, a mission that he thought could be achieved by 2050. He provided covert assistance to anti-Western Muslim groups and hoped that terrorists would attack American cities. He envisioned a world in which America's global influence would be replaced by a European superstate built according to the precepts of Hitler's Third Reich and ruled by elitists who had replaced Christianity with the occult Hermetic disciplines.

Some researchers are certain that Yockey was part of a German American espionage network and that he aided the infiltration of Nazi saboteurs into the United States.

Little is known about this mysterious individual, who inhabited the farthest edges of the shadowy fringe. Just as devotees of weird tales embrace the mystery of H. P. Lovecraft's *Necronomicon*, disciples of fascism and Satanism are devoted to Yockey's underground text *Imperium*. Of course, followers of Lovecraft's work understand that his world of Ancient Ones was fiction; admirers of Yockey's work dedicate themselves to fulfilling his vision of European unity under a Nazi regime. Yockey brushes aside the Nazi defeat in World War II as temporary setback in the march toward the ultimate goal of the exclusion of America in European affairs and a fascist revolution in America itself. Imperium was written under the pseudonym of "Ulick Varange" ("Ulick," supposedly a Danish Irish name; "Varange," a reference to the Norsemen) and self-published in 1948 by Yockey in a limited edition of two hundred copies. Reprints of the work circulate today among neo-Nazi and far-right groups, who regard Yockey's thoughts and theories with the same reverence that earlier like-minded readers held toward Hitler's *Mein Kampf*.

It was not until some years after Yockey's death that radical-right publisher Willis Carto published a paperback edition of *Imperium* and the book began to reach a wide readership among neo-Nazi and neo-fascist groups. The Italian Hermetic ideologue Julius Evola had praised Yockey's work, and *Imperium* was in harmony with the Swiss-based New European Order and its beliefs in the myths of Aryan origins in the hyperborean north and in Atlantis.

Born in Chicago in 1917, Yockey was reared Roman Catholic, but was attracted to a kind of theosophical Nietzscheanism in the 1930s as he grew more involved with radical-right organizations. Yockey was interested in the German American Bund, but he also became intrigued with the Stalinists, the Trotskyites, the quasi-fascist followers of Father Coughlin—any group, it seems, that opposed capitalism and blamed everything on the Jews.

Some researchers are certain that Yockey was part of a German American espionage network and that he aided the infiltration of Nazi saboteurs into the United States. During World War II, Yockey received a commission in the U.S. Army. He briefly deserted but, after a few weeks, returned to duty and satisfied the army that he had suffered a mental breakdown. He obtained a medical discharge without any suspicion that he may have been aiding Nazi spies and saboteurs during his time away from base.

Before the war, Yockey pursued an academic career at several universities, completed a law degree at Notre Dame, and was qualified to practice. He had also attended Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service as an undergraduate. With these qualifications, he obtained a job after the Nazis' surrender with the war crimes tribunal in Germany. He was discharged for his tendency to side with the Nazi officials he was supposed to be prosecuting. Later Yockey landed a job with the American Red Cross and returned to Germany. He soon deserted his post and was sent back to the United States. Yockey had simply used both positions as a means of getting the U.S. government to finance his trips to Germany to meet with the growing pan-European fascist network.

Conspiracy theorists speculate that Yockey spent the 1950s accumulating a bewildering array of identities as he traveled around the world, doing whatever he could to aid the fascist cause. It is likely that he was involved with Odessa, the international network of postwar Nazis and fascists. Some suggest that Yockey spent a substantial amount of time behind the Iron Curtain before he returned briefly to the United States to work as a speechwriter for Senator Joseph McCarthy. It is known that Yockey spent time in New Orleans writing propaganda for use in Latin America, and a number of conspiracy researchers insist that he knew Lee Harvey Oswald at that time.

In 1960 the FBI confronted Yockey in Oakland, California, after his numerous identities and passports had raised a number of red flags. Before federal agents could question him, Yockey tried to run away, injuring an agent in the process. Yockey died by self-administered potassium cyanide on June 17, 1960.

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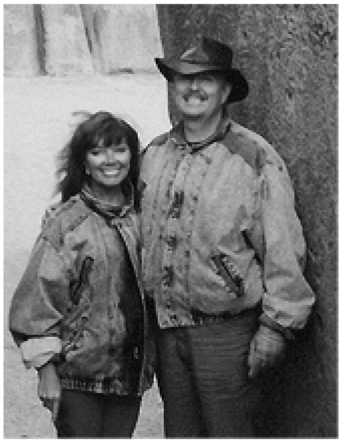

For five decades, award-winning writer **Brad Steiger** was devoted to exploring and examining unusual, hidden, secret, and otherwise strange occurrences. A former high school teacher and college instructor, Brad published his first articles on the unexplained in 1956. He wrote more than two thousand articles with paranormal themes. He was the author or coauthor of more than 170 titles, including *Real Ghosts, Restless Spirits, and Haunted Places; The Werewolf Book; Mysteries of Time and Space;* and *Real Monsters, Gruesome Creatures, and Beasts from the Darkside.*

Brad was a veteran of broadcast news magazines, ranging from *Nightline* to the *NBC Nightly News,* and a wide variety of cable programs. He was also a regular radio guest on Jeff Rense's *Sightings, The Allan Handelman Show,* and *Coast to Coast* with George Noory. Brad was interviewed and featured in numerous newspapers and magazines, including the *New York Times, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle,* and *Chicago Tribune.*

For over forty-five years, Brad's wife, **Sherry Steiger**, actively studied the mysteries of the paranormal, as well as the dynamic interaction between the body, mind, and spirit and the effects of environment and technology on health and wellness. Sherry addressed audiences and corporate groups from coast to coast.

Sherry served as a counselor to troubled youth, the homeless, migrant workers, and families in need of crisis intervention. In the 1970s she formed a nonprofit holistic research and education school, and in the 1980s she served as public relations director for astronomer Dr. J. Allen Hynek in the Phoenix branch of the Center for UFO Research. She authored or coauthored more than forty-four books, including the best-selling "Miracles" series.

Together, the Steigers researched mysteries and miracles throughout the globe and lectured and conducted workshops for over twenty years. They were interviewed on many national radio programs and guested on such television programs as *The Joan Rivers Show, Hard Copy, Inside Edition,* and *Entertainment Tonight,* as well as appearing in specials on HBO, The Learning Channel, Discovery, History, and A&E channels, among others. They were also featured in twenty-two episodes of the syndicated series *Could It Be a Miracle?*

Brad passed away on May 6, 2018, and Sherry passed on March 7, 2020. They had two sons, three daughters, and ten grandchildren.

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